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Cowboy ROMANCES

a BIG
52 PAGE
magazine

NO. 3 MARCH
10¢

a
LOVERS
magazine

thrill to:
"Romance
in Roaring
Valley"

★

WHAT HAPPENED
WHEN:
SARAH
MET THE
SADDLE-
TRAMP?

and other
romantic tales
of the glamorous
west!

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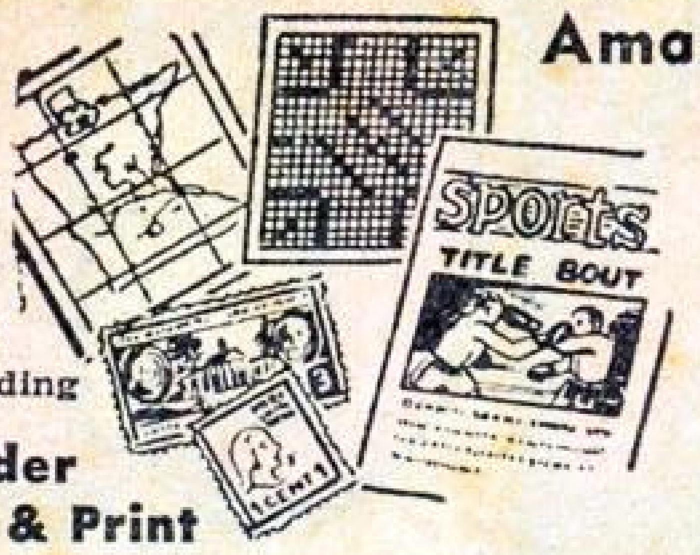

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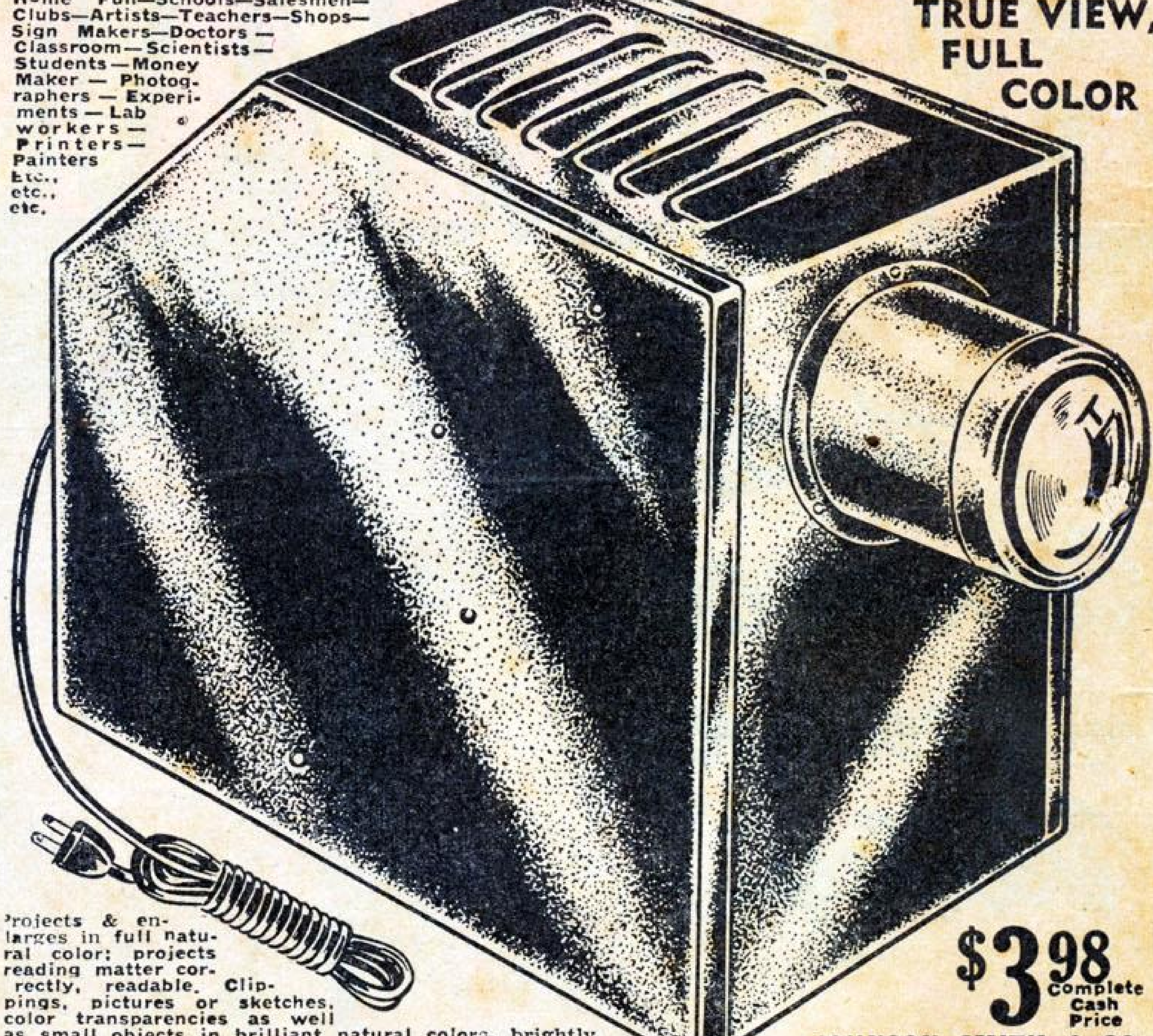

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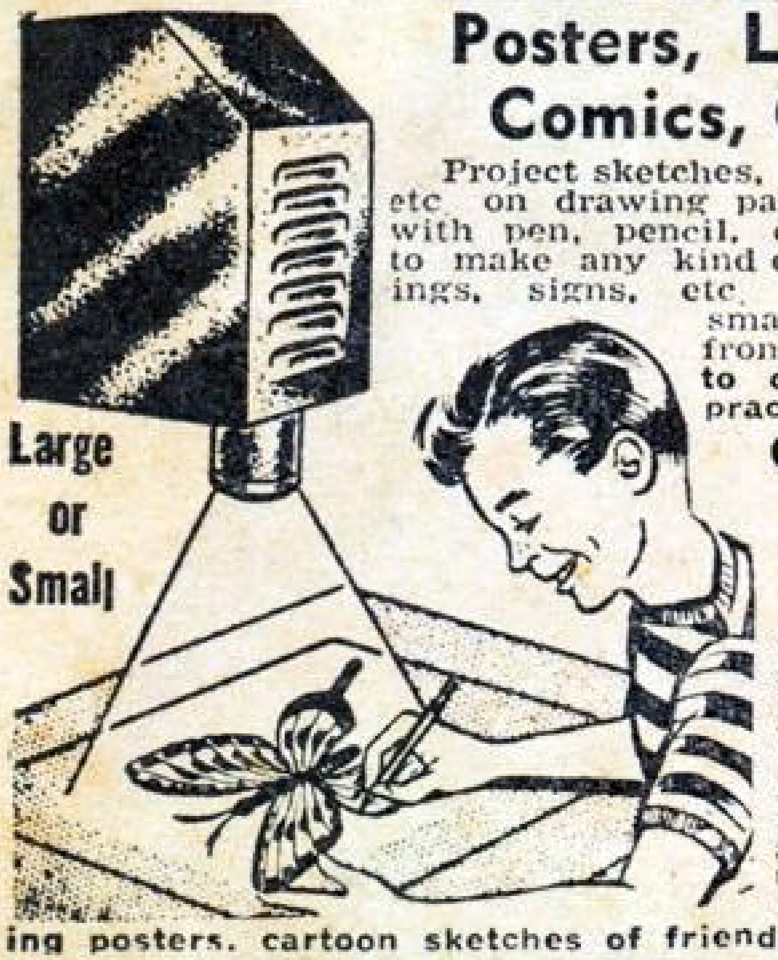

Posters, Lettering, Comics, Objects

Project sketches, pictures, objects, etc on drawing paper. Sketch over with pen, pencil, colors, etc Easy to make any kind of cartoons, drawings, signs, etc either large or small. Make cartoons from pictures **Easy to do: no skill, no practise.**

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Picture Enlarger and Projector

Niagra Falls

Project 3-Dimension Pictures

Put on your own show by projecting snapshots, pictures, post cards, photos, comics, clippings, etc. on wall or screen. Fine for school, clubs, talks, home shows, telling about your trip, salesmen, etc. Full color, correct projection, entirely readable & correct. Special device enables you to project real 3-dimension or stereosopic pictures. Startling, life-like.

Make Money---Machine Pays for Itself

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Different Show Every Night; No Films to Buy; No More Expense; Sports, Girl Beauties, Comics, Etc. Your favorite **SPORTS, MOVIE or COMIC PICTURES** from papers & magazines. Enlarge action pictures. Project snapshots of your girl, family trip. Project and read comic strips to kids. Large pictures projected in full color!

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Make Signs, Sketches, Posters, Cartoons, Lettering, Etc. Quick! Easy! In Black & White or Full Color; From Clippings or Copy; Large or Small Make sketch or cartoon of friends. Posters and signs for clubs, stores, dances. Easy to make, large or small. Project picture or rough sketch right on blank drawing paper. Using pen, pencil or colors, sketch **OVER PROJECTED PICTURE.** Project photos and make funny, life-like cartoons or sketches. Amazing & practical. **Be a good artist, even though you never did it before!** Lettering and signs easy to do.

Magnifies Stamps, Specimens, Objects for Close Examination; Reader for Weak Eyes Collectors can enlarge objects. Examine in greatly magnified detail. **MAGNIFIES ABOUT 50 AREAS.** Make photo enlargements direct from objects! Enlarges small type, maps, etc., projecting it for easy reading.

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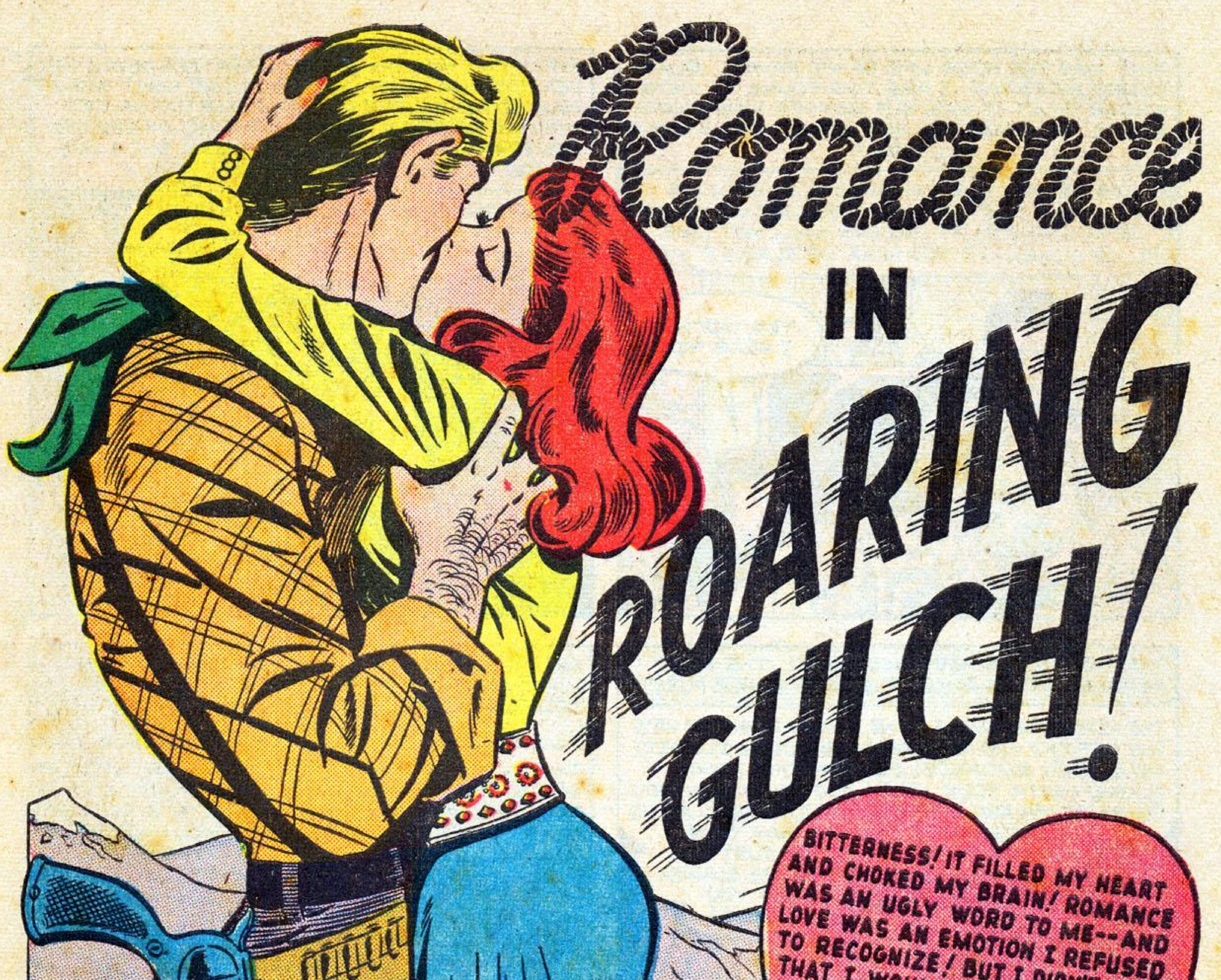
Romance IN ROARING GULCH!


BITTERNESS! IT FILLED MY HEART AND CHOKED MY BRAIN! ROMANCE WAS AN UGLY WORD TO ME--AND LOVE WAS AN EMOTION I REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I WOULD ONE DAY MEET A MAN WITH FIRE IN HIS EYES AND A SECRET IN HIS HEART!
COWBOY ROMANCES 3
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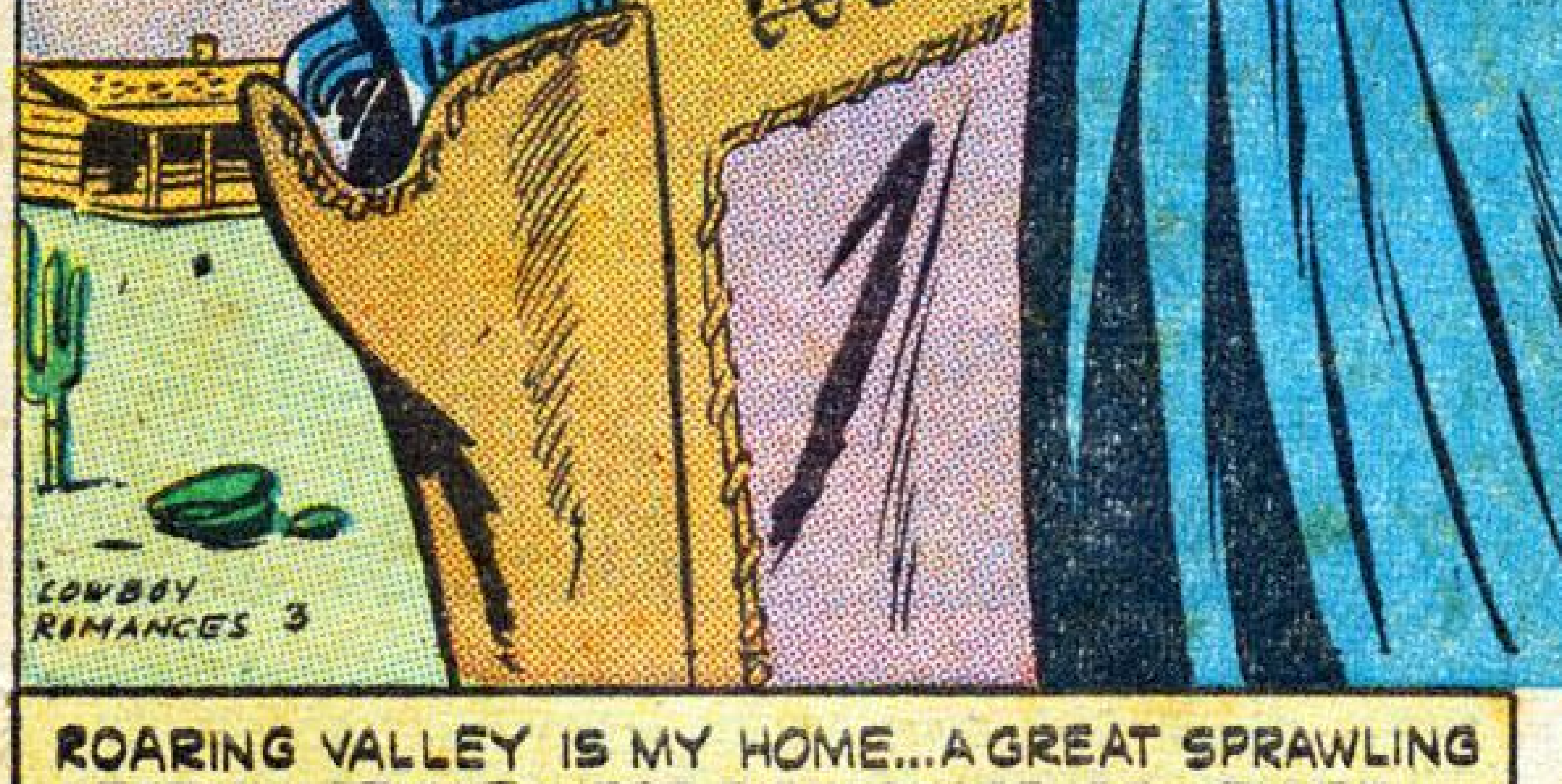
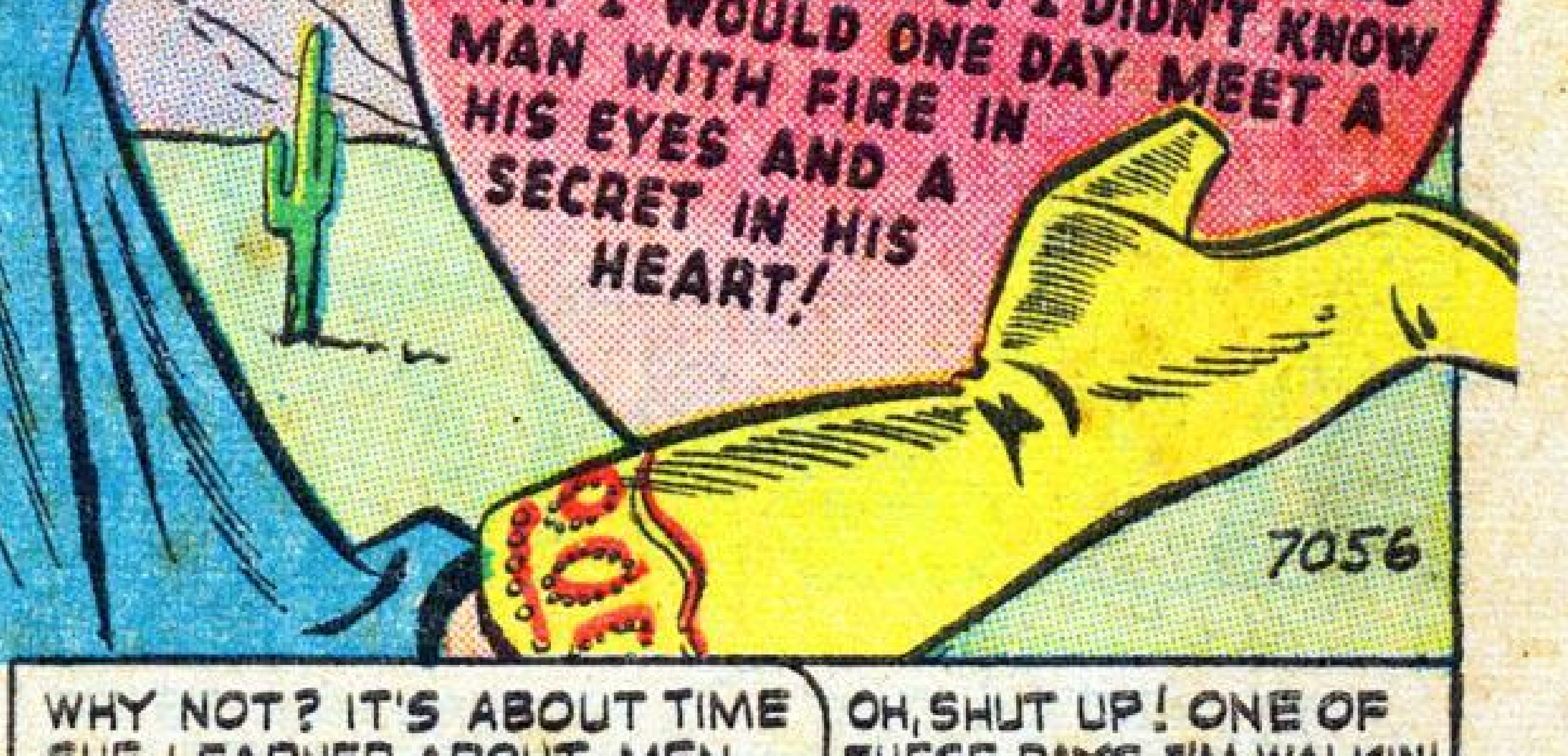
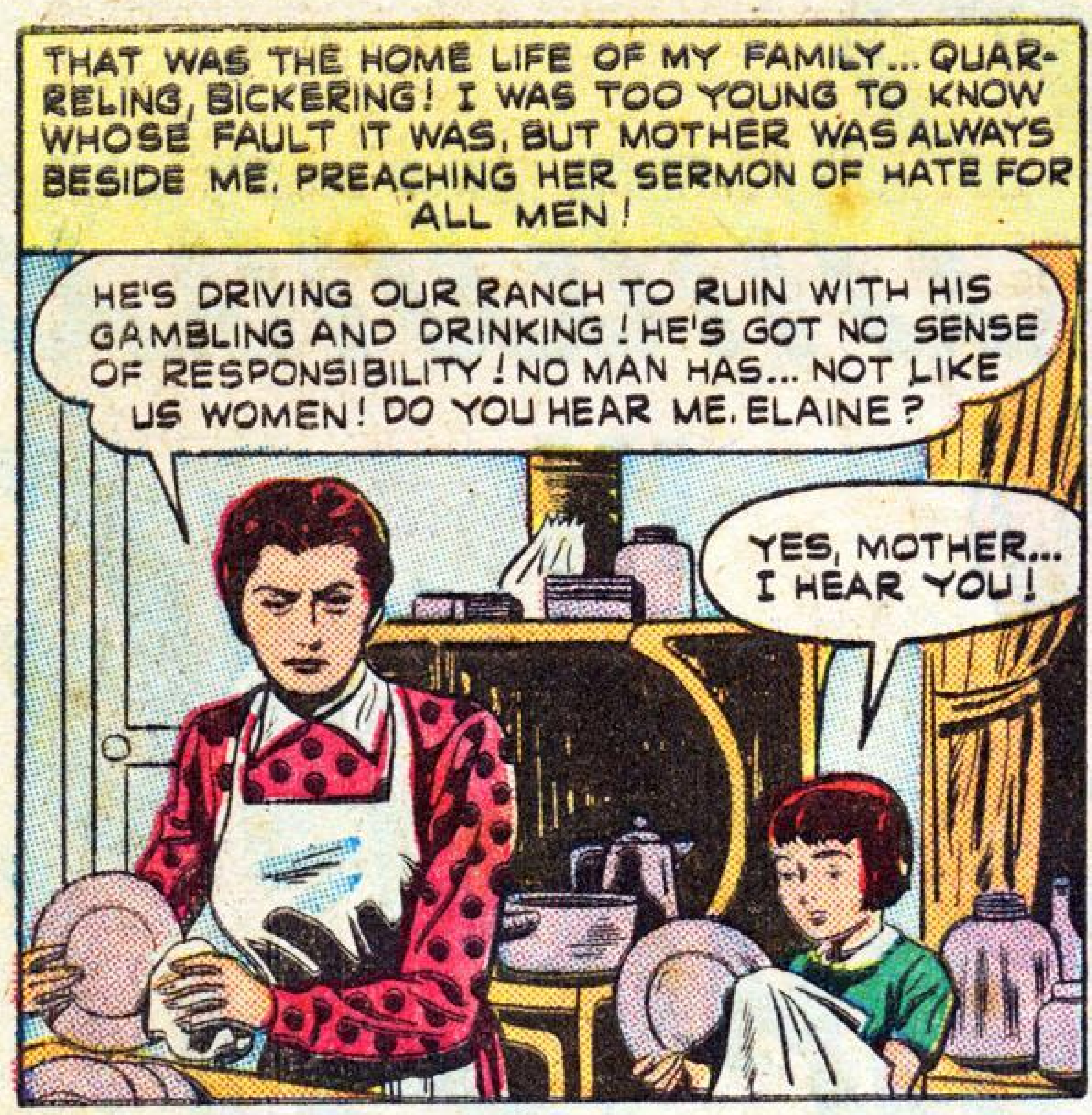
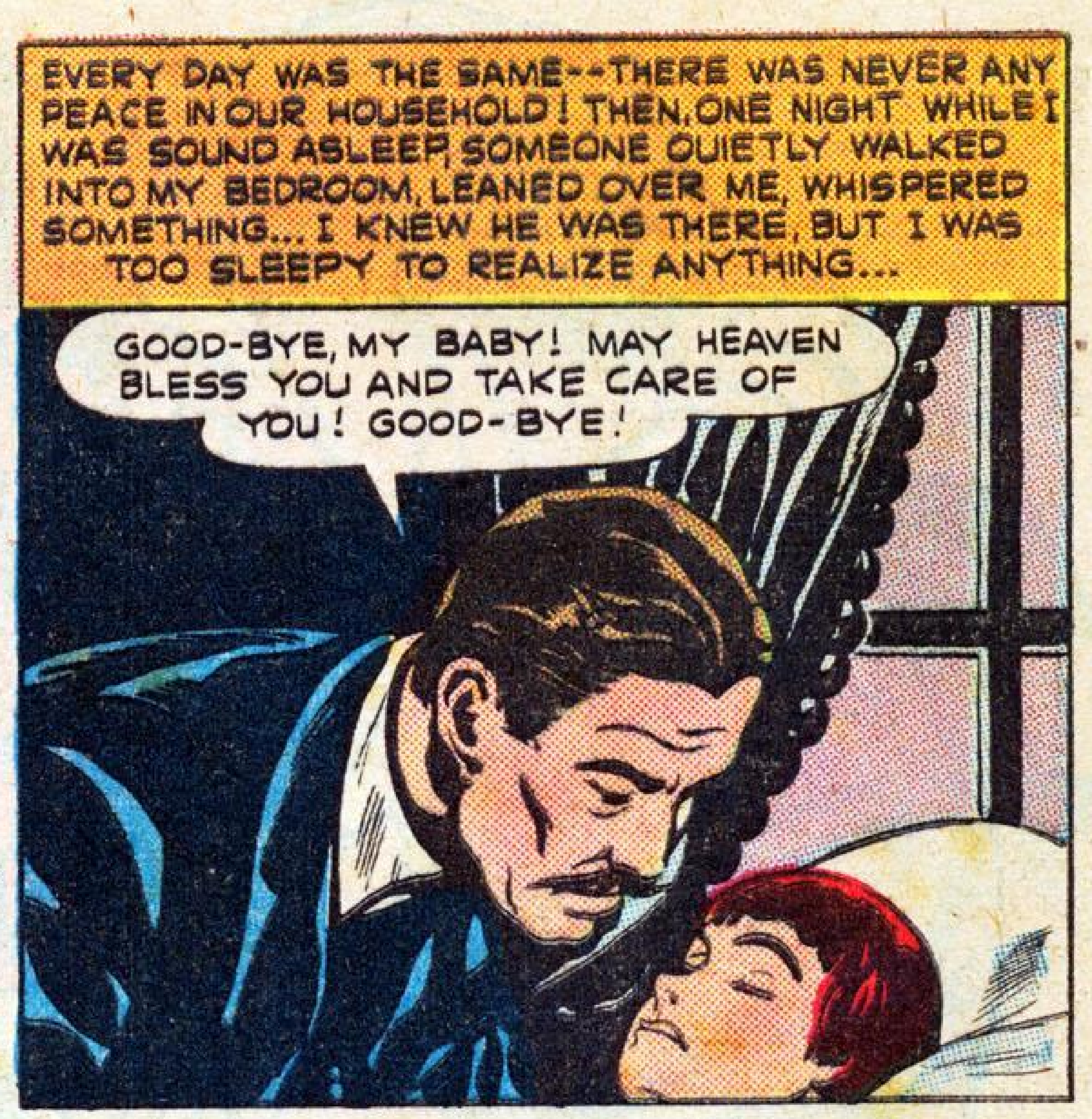
ROARING VALLEY IS MY HOME... A GREAT SPRAWLING SECTION OF THE WEST, BIRTHPLACE OF MEN OF STRENGTH, OF GIANT BLIZZARDS... A PLACE SO VIOLENT AND TURBULENT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ROMANCE!

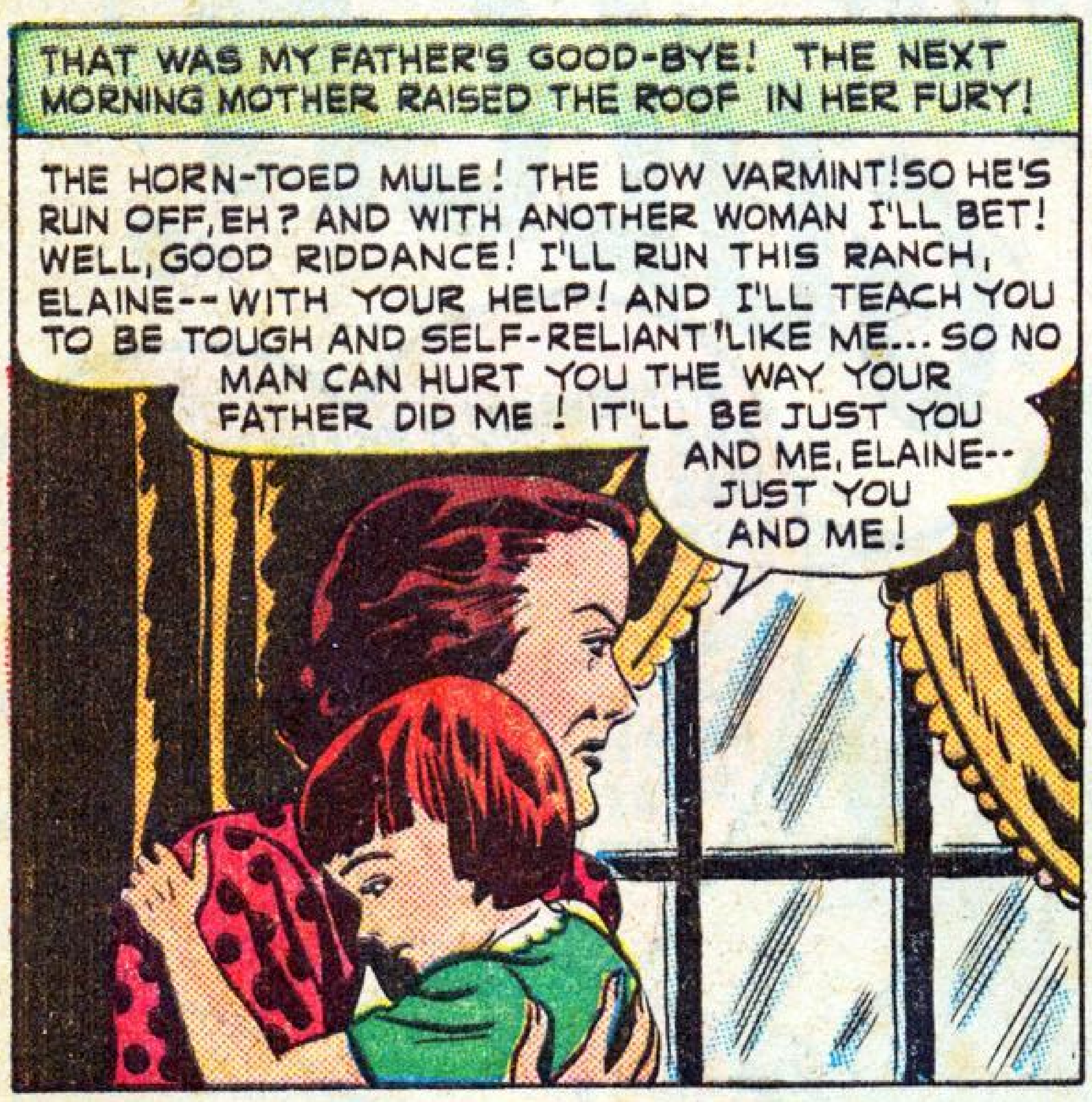

JED WHEELER, YOU'RE A LAZY, SHIFTLESS MONGREL! IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME THIS RANCH WOULD HAVE GONE TO POT YEARS AGO!
FOR PETE'S SAKE, MIRANDA, DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP YOUR EVERLASTIN' BICKERIN' IN FRONT OF LITTLE ELAINE?

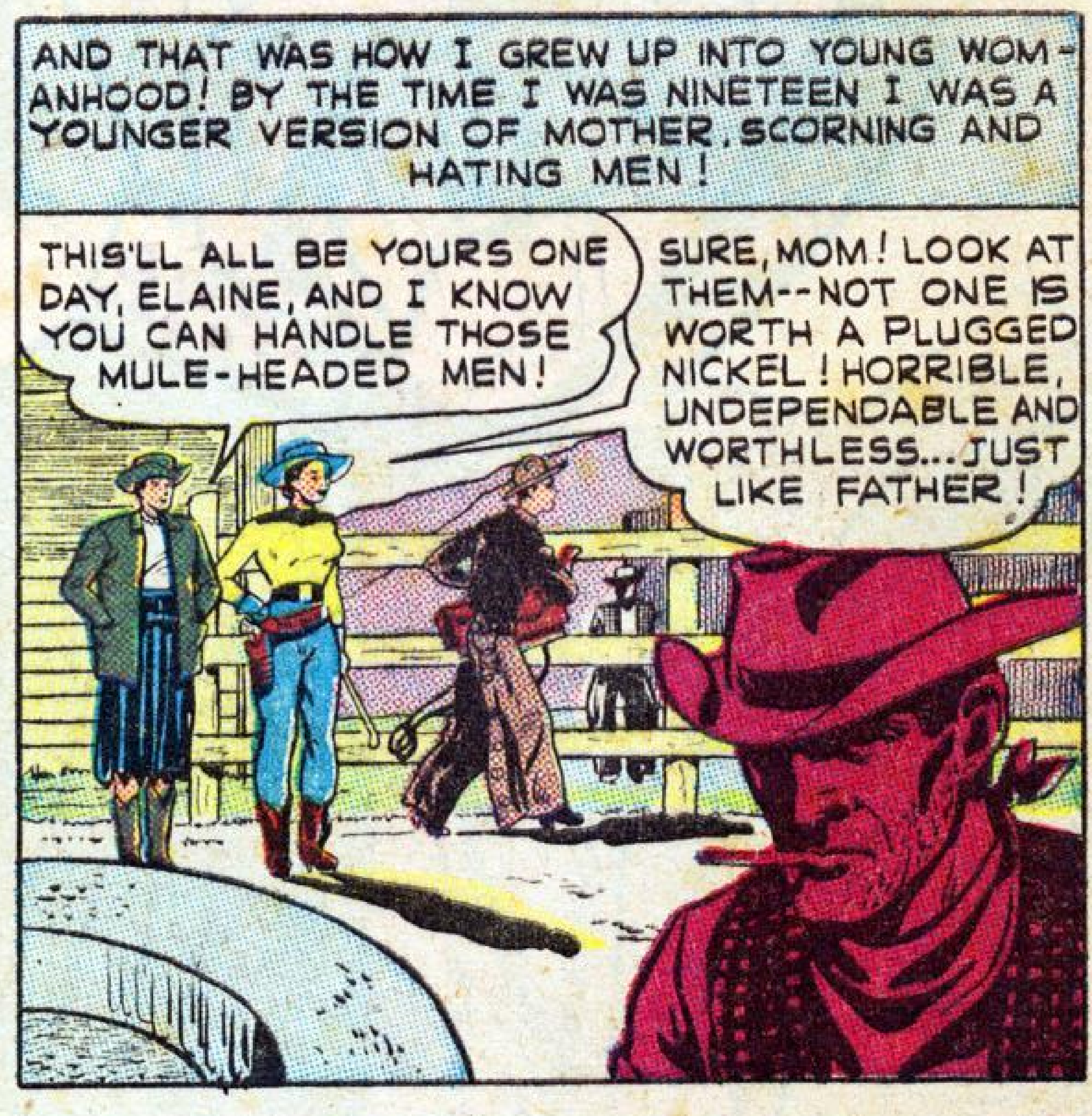
THE CLIMATE IN ROARING VALLEY WAS ALWAYS COLD AND BITTER... BUT NO PART OF IT WAS COLDER OR MORE BITTER THAN MY OWN HOME... WHERE MOTHER'S UNLOVING NATURE BROUGHT MISERY TO MY FATHER!

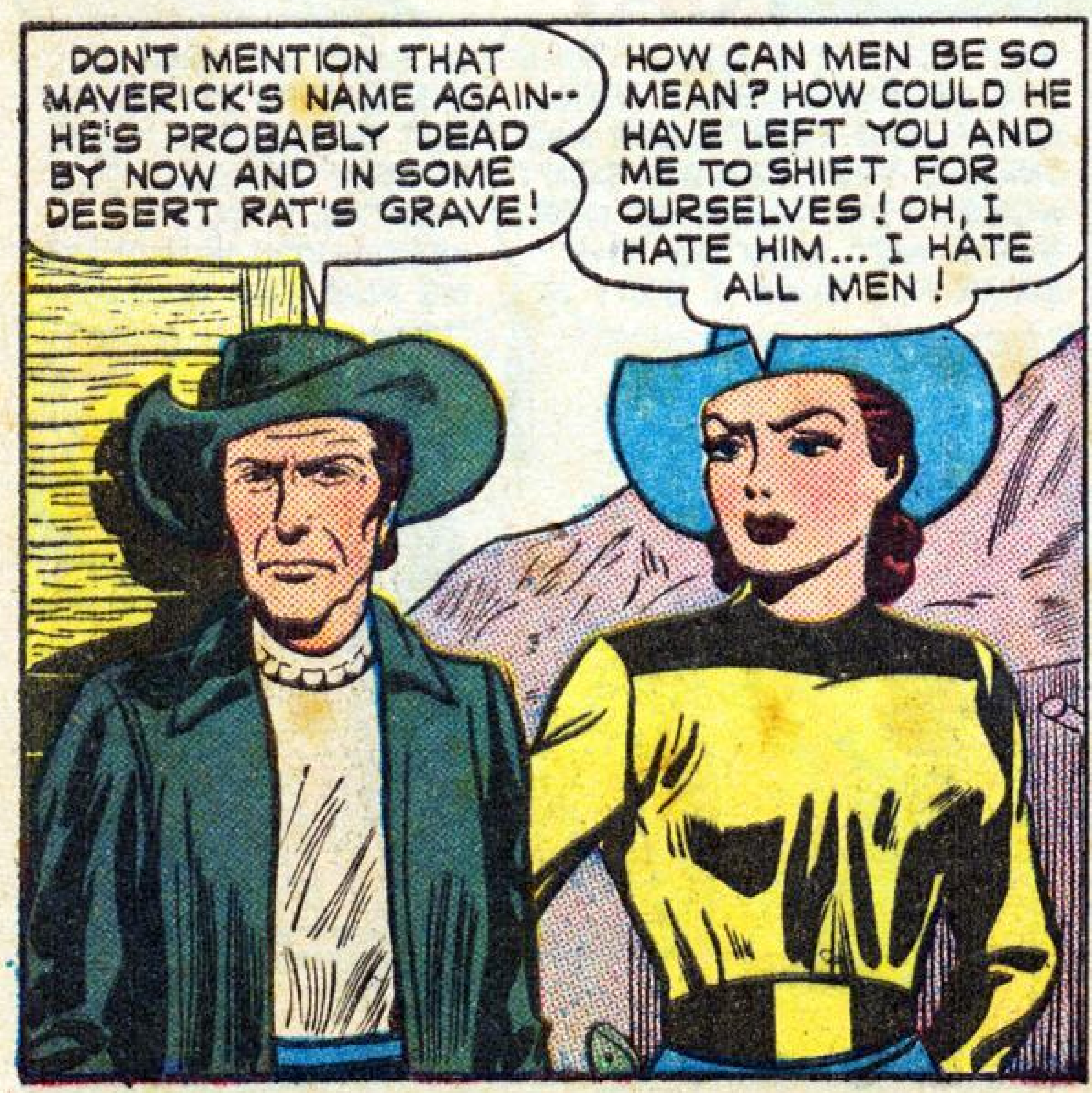

WHY NOT? IT'S ABOUT TIME SHE LEARNED ABOUT MEN... ABOUT HOW WORTHLESS AND ORNERY THEY CAN BE! DON'T WORRY--I'M TEACHING HER! SHE'S NOT MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE I DID!
OH, SHUT UP! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M WALKIN' OUT ON YOU AND YOUR WAGGIN' TONGUE! I'LL HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE--YOU WON'T SEE ME FOR THE SMOKE!

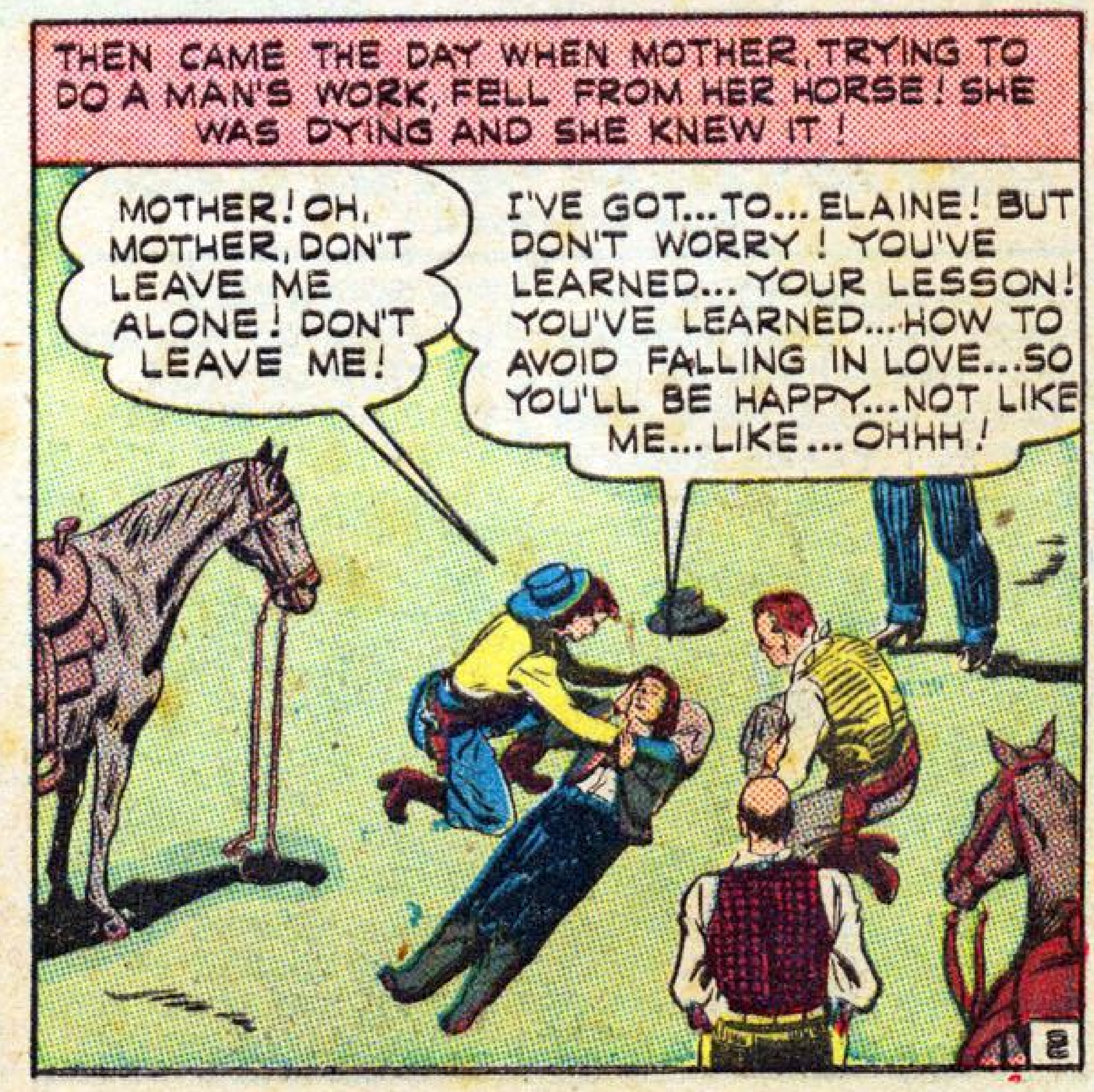

THAT WAS THE HOME LIFE OF MY FAMILY... QUARRELING, BICKERING! I WAS TOO YOUNG TO KNOW WHOSE FAULT IT WAS, BUT MOTHER WAS ALWAYS BESIDE ME, PREACHING HER SERMON OF HATE FOR ALL MEN!
HE'S DRIVING OUR RANCH TO RUIN WITH HIS GAMBLING AND DRINKING! HE'S GOT NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY! NO MAN HAS... NOT LIKE US WOMEN! DO YOU HEAR ME, ELAINE?
YES, MOTHER... I HEAR YOU!

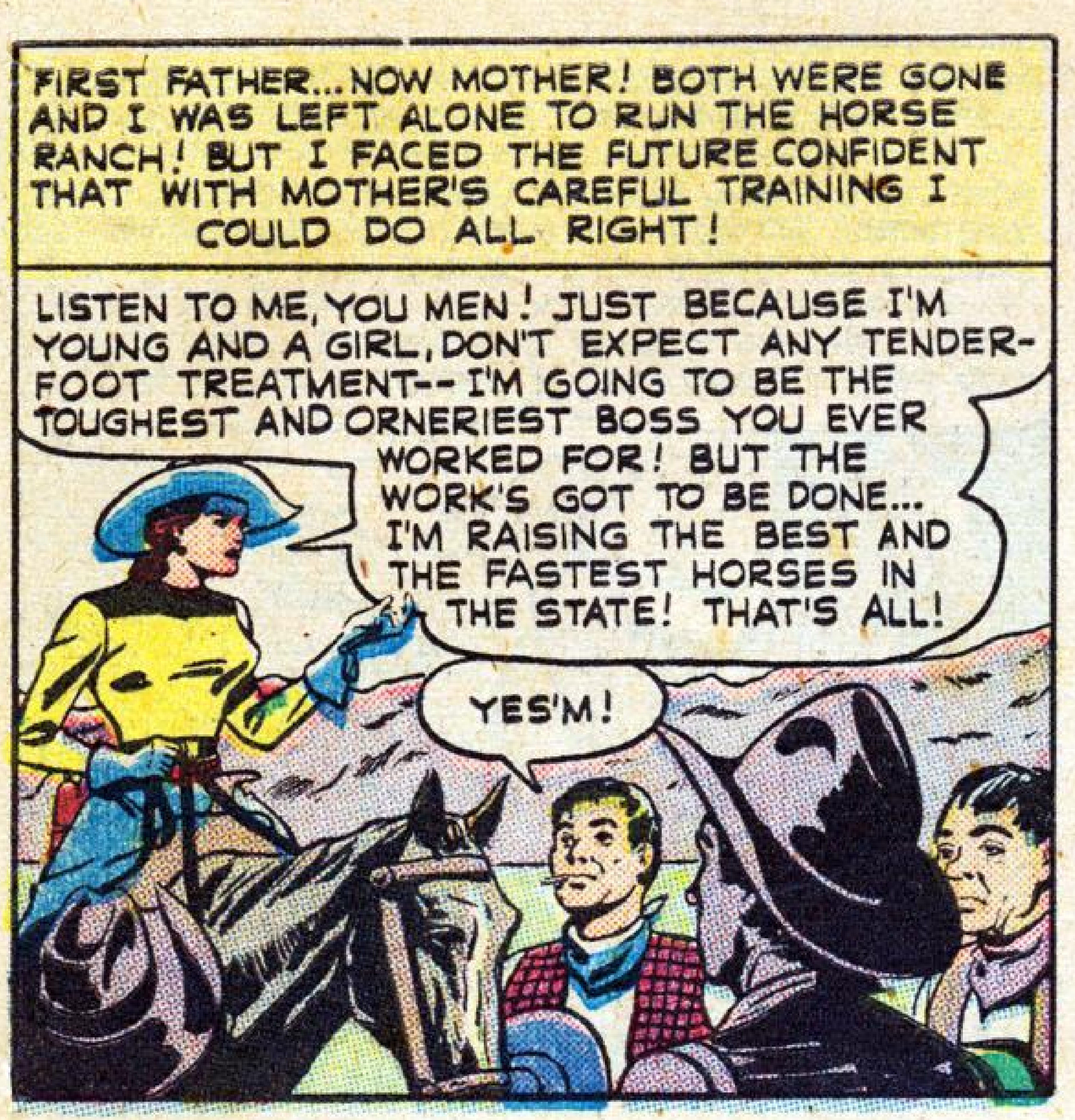

EVERY DAY WAS THE SAME--THERE WAS NEVER ANY PEACE IN OUR HOUSEHOLD! THEN, ONE NIGHT WHILE I WAS SOUND ASLEEP, SOMEONE QUIETLY WALKED INTO MY BEDROOM, LEANED OVER ME, WHISPERED SOMETHING... I KNEW HE WAS THERE, BUT I WAS TOO SLEEPY TO REALIZE ANYTHING...
GOOD-BYE, MY BABY! MAY HEAVEN BLESS YOU AND TAKE CARE OF YOU! GOOD-BYE!

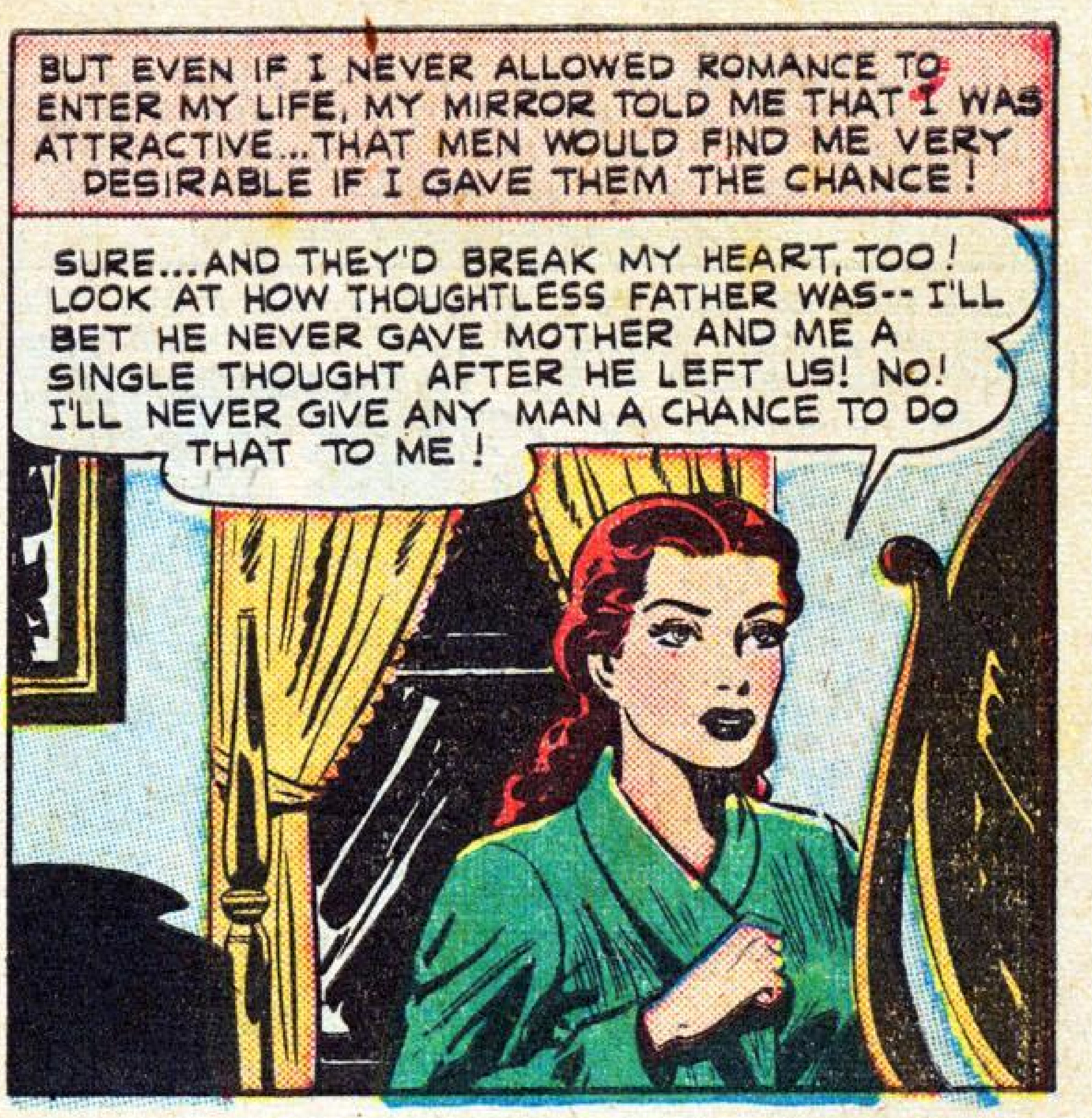

THAT WAS MY FATHER'S GOOD-BYE! THE NEXT MORNING MOTHER RAISED THE ROOF IN HER FURY!
THE HORN-TOED MULE! THE LOW VARMINT! SO HE'S RUN OFF, EH? AND WITH ANOTHER WOMAN I'LL BET! WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE! I'LL RUN THIS RANCH, ELAINE--WITH YOUR HELP! AND I'LL TEACH YOU TO BE TOUGH AND SELF-RELIANT LIKE ME... SO NO MAN CAN HURT YOU THE WAY YOUR FATHER DID ME! IT'LL BE JUST YOU AND ME, ELAINE--JUST YOU AND ME!

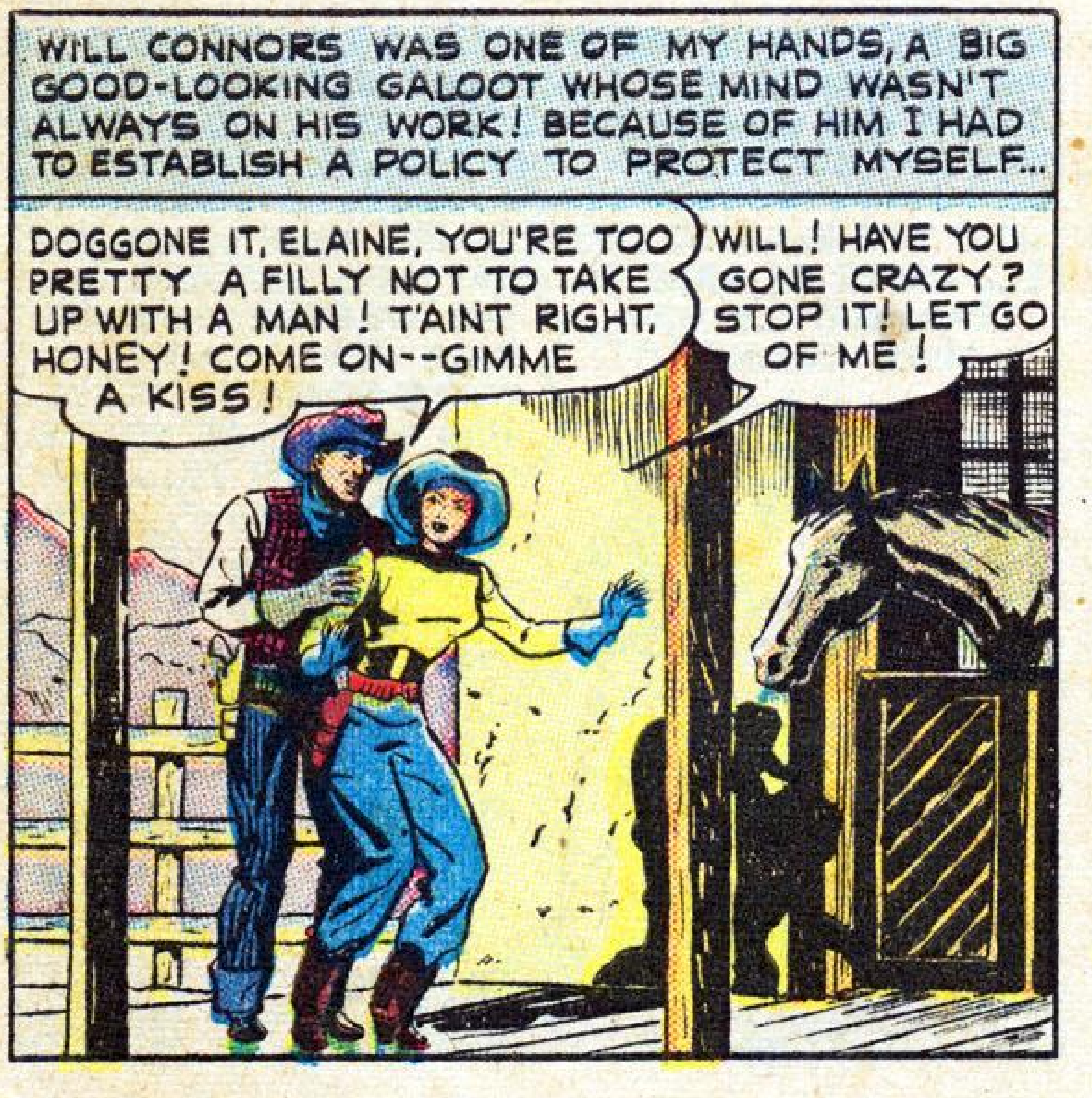

AND THAT WAS HOW I GREW UP INTO YOUNG WOMANHOOD! BY THE TIME I WAS NINETEEN I WAS A YOUNGER VERSION OF MOTHER, SCORNING AND HATING MEN!
THIS'LL ALL BE YOURS ONE DAY, ELAINE, AND I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE THOSE MULE-HEADED MEN!
SURE, MOM! LOOK AT THEM--NOT ONE IS WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL! HORRIBLE, UNDEPENDABLE AND WORTHLESS... JUST LIKE FATHER!

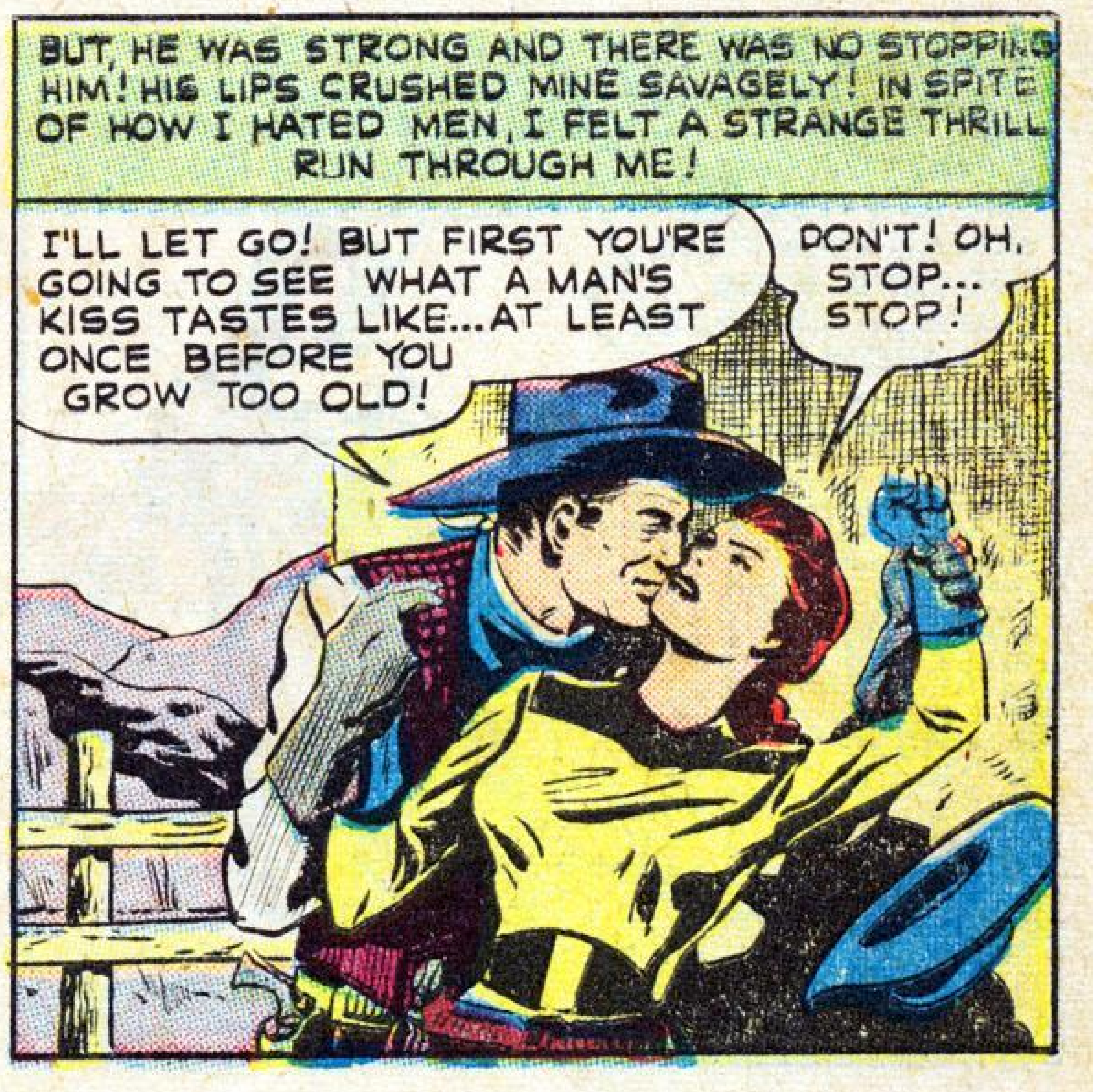

DON'T MENTION THAT MAVERICK'S NAME AGAIN--HE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW AND IN SOME DESERT RAT'S GRAVE!
HOW CAN MEN BE SO MEAN? HOW COULD HE HAVE LEFT YOU AND ME TO SHIFT FOR OURSELVES! OH, I HATE HIM... I HATE ALL MEN!

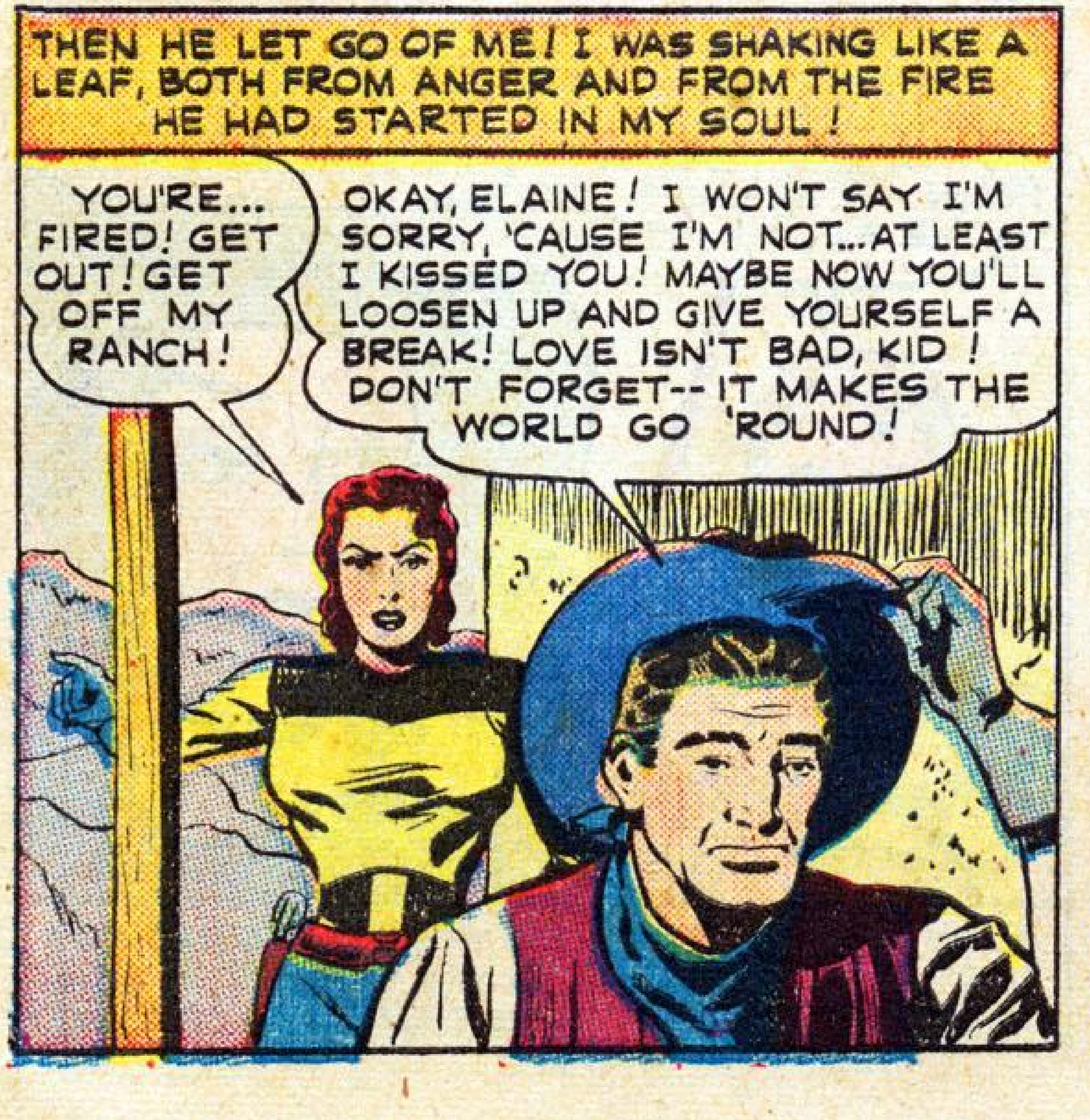

THEN CAME THE DAY WHEN MOTHER, TRYING TO DO A MAN'S WORK, FELL FROM HER HORSE! SHE WAS DYING AND SHE KNEW IT!
MOTHER! OH, MOTHER, DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T LEAVE ME!
I'VE GOT...TO... ELAINE! BUT DON'T WORRY! YOU'VE LEARNED... YOUR LESSON! YOU'VE LEARNED... HOW TO AVOID FALLING IN LOVE... SO YOU'LL BE HAPPY... NOT LIKE ME... LIKE... OHHH!

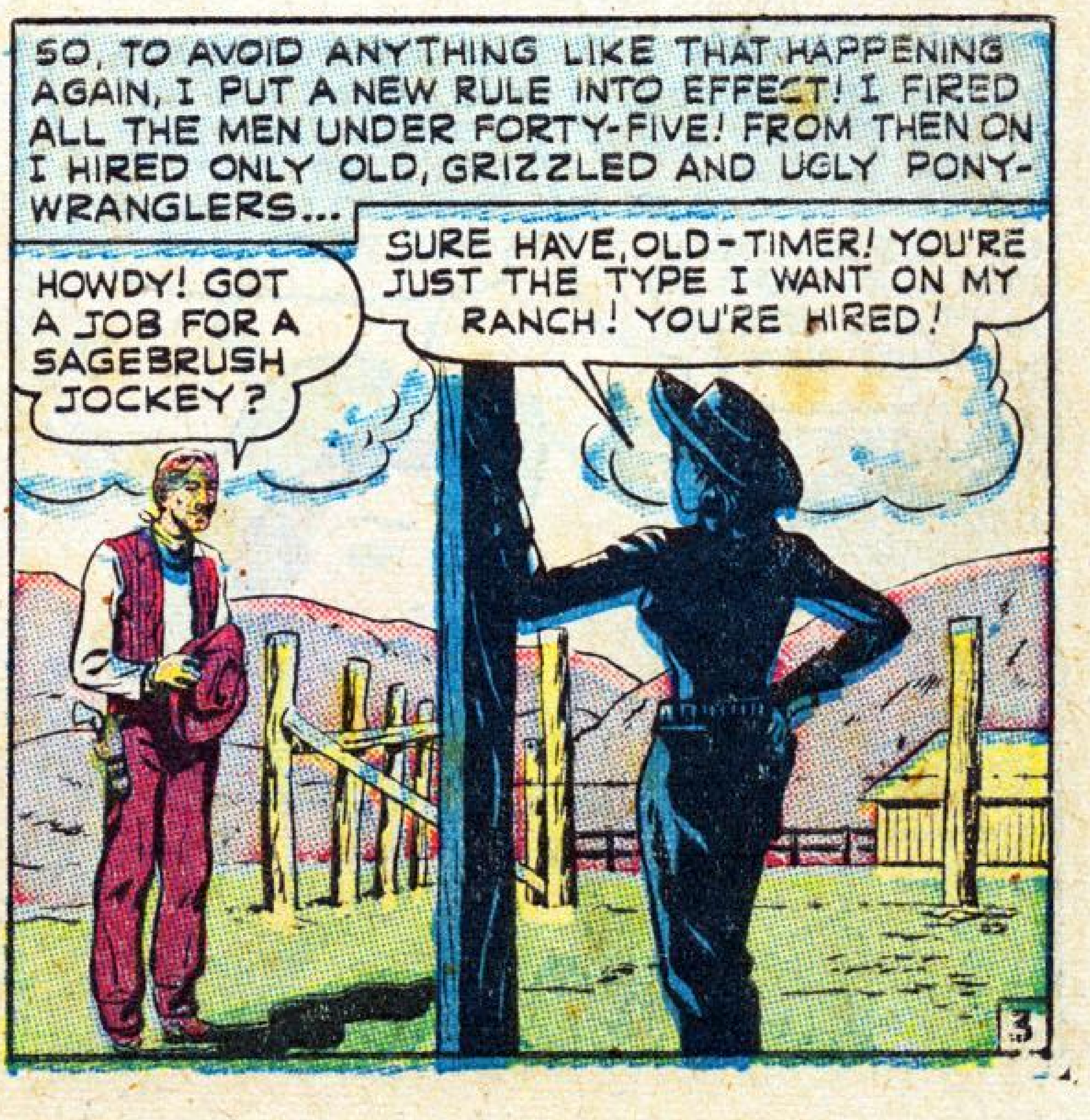

FIRST FATHER...NOW MOTHER! BOTH WERE GONE AND I WAS LEFT ALONE TO RUN THE HORSE RANCH! BUT I FACED THE FUTURE CONFIDENT THAT WITH MOTHER'S CAREFUL TRAINING I COULD DO ALL RIGHT!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU MEN! JUST BECAUSE I'M YOUNG AND A GIRL, DON'T EXPECT ANY TENDERFOOT TREATMENT--I'M GOING TO BE THE TOUGHEST AND ORNERIEST BOSS YOU EVER WORKED FOR! BUT THE WORK'S GOT TO BE DONE... I'M RAISING THE BEST AND THE FASTEST HORSES IN THE STATE! THAT'S ALL!
YES'M!

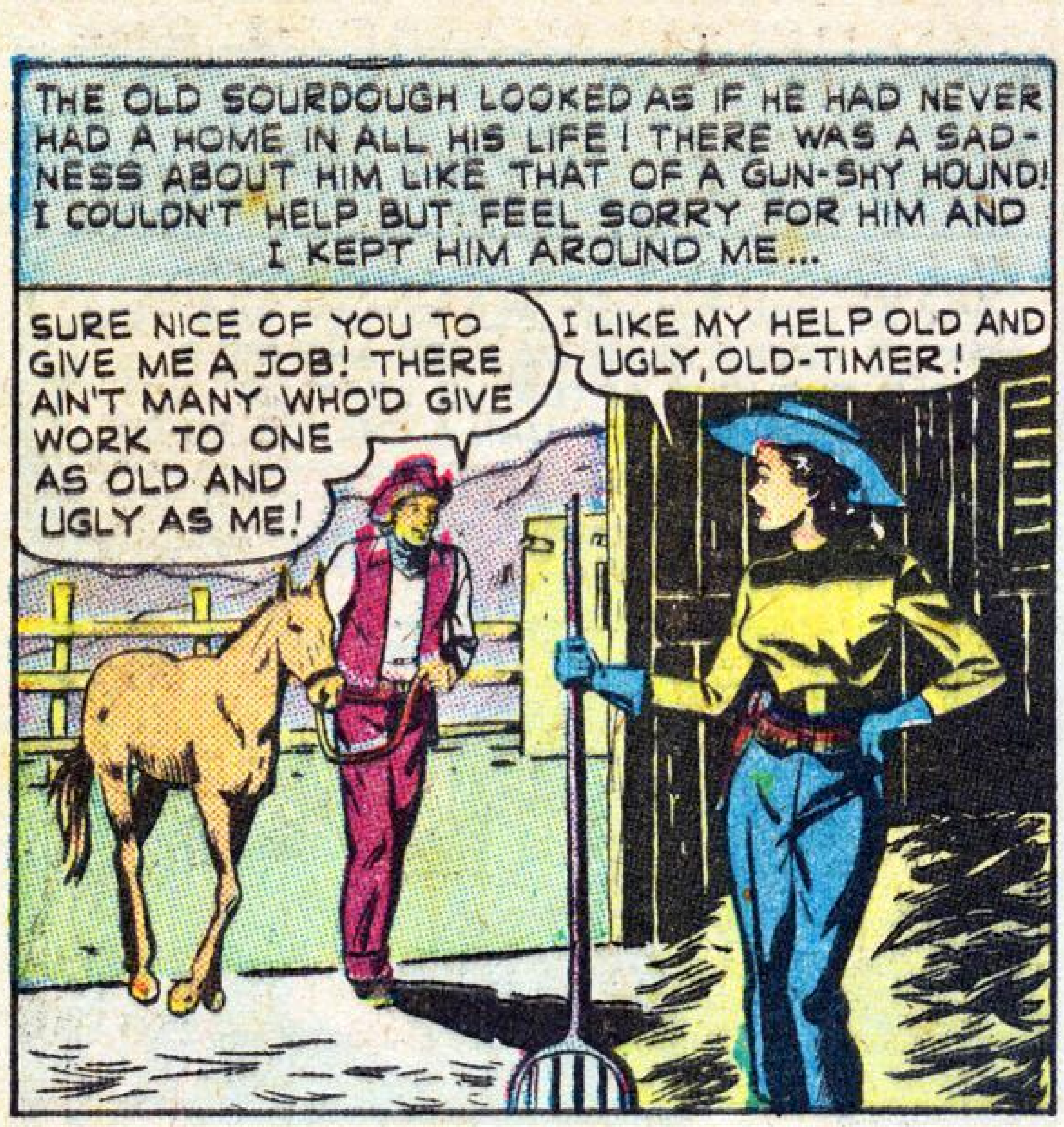

BUT EVEN IF I NEVER ALLOWED ROMANCE TO ENTER MY LIFE, MY MIRROR TOLD ME THAT I WAS ATTRACTIVE...THAT MEN WOULD FIND ME VERY DESIRABLE IF I GAVE THEM THE CHANCE!
SURE...AND THEY'D BREAK MY HEART, TOO! LOOK AT HOW THOUGHTLESS FATHER WAS--I'LL BET HE NEVER GAVE MOTHER AND ME A SINGLE THOUGHT AFTER HE LEFT US! NO! I'LL NEVER GIVE ANY MAN A CHANCE TO DO THAT TO ME!

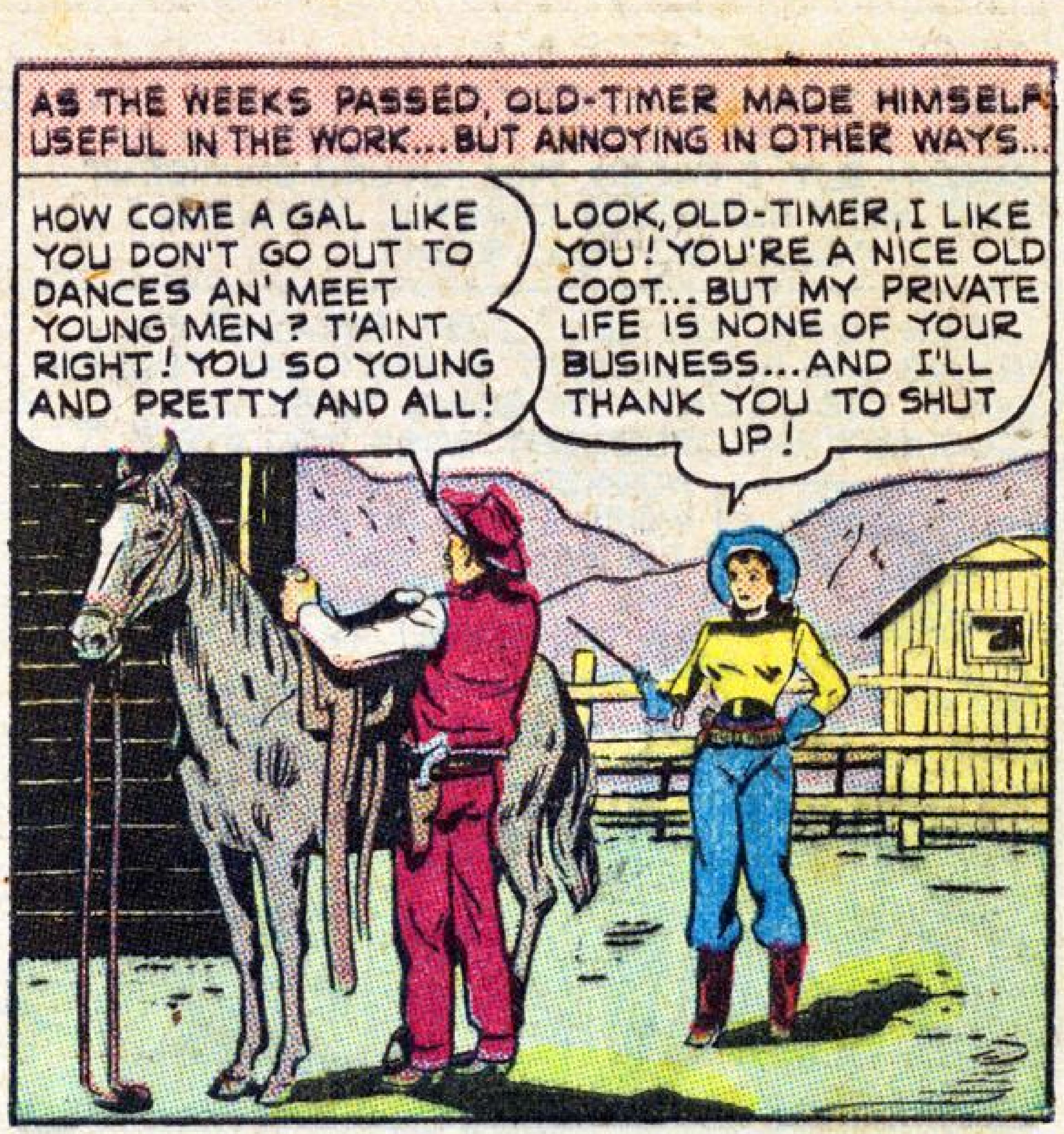

WILL CONNORS WAS ONE OF MY HANDS, A BIG GOOD-LOOKING GALOOT WHOSE MIND WASN'T ALWAYS ON HIS WORK! BECAUSE OF HIM I HAD TO ESTABLISH A POLICY TO PROTECT MYSELF...
DOGGONE IT, ELAINE, YOU'RE TOO PRETTY A FILLY NOT TO TAKE UP WITH A MAN! T'AINT RIGHT, HONEY! COME ON--GIMME A KISS!
WILL! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY? STOP IT! LET GO OF ME!

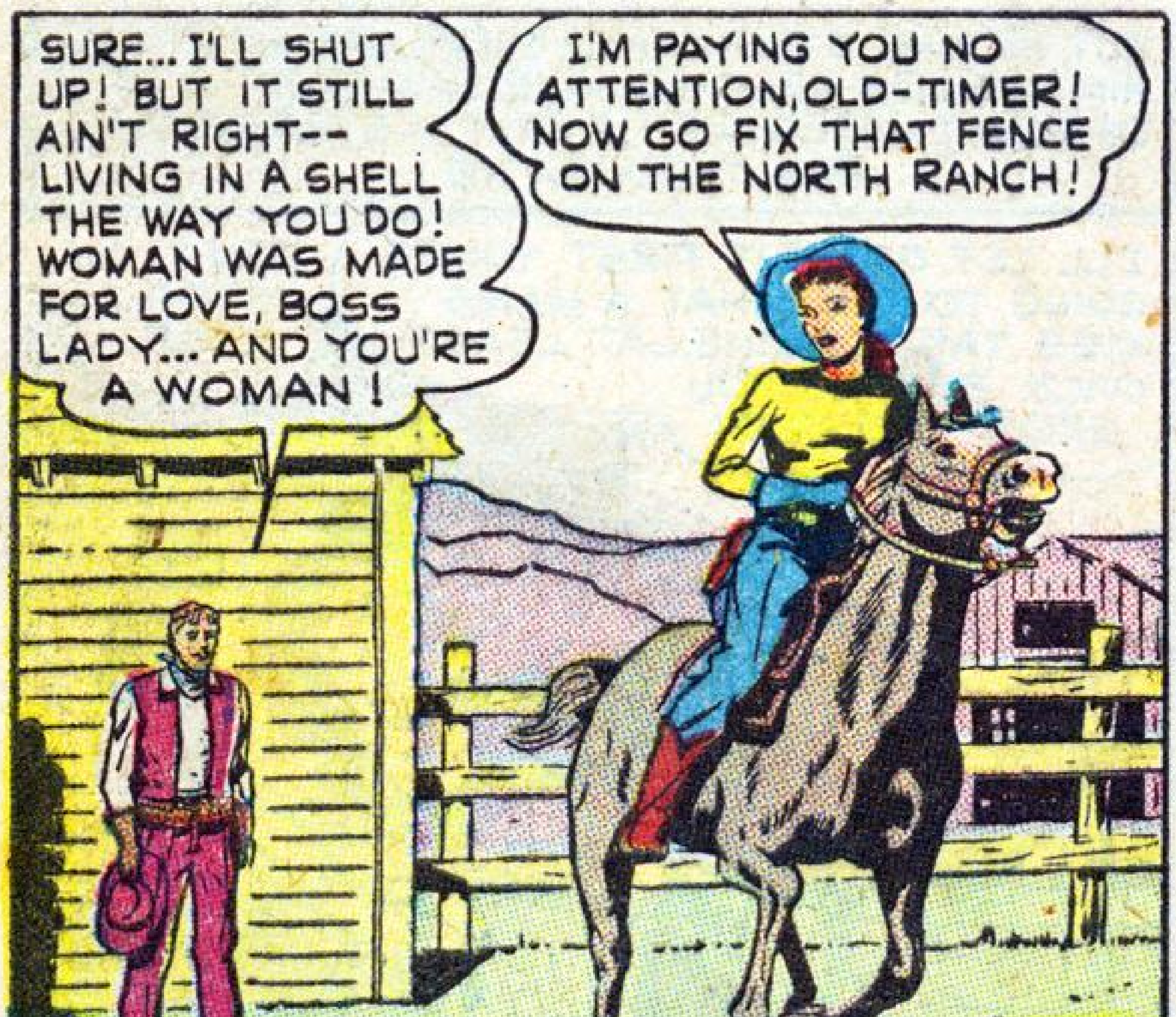

BUT, HE WAS STRONG AND THERE WAS NO STOPPING HIM! HIS LIPS CRUSHED MINE SAVAGELY! IN SPITE OF HOW I HATED MEN, I FELT A STRANGE THRILL RUN THROUGH ME!
I'LL LET GO! BUT FIRST YOU'RE GOING TO SEE WHAT A MAN'S KISS TASTES LIKE...AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE YOU GROW TOO OLD!
DON'T! OH, STOP... STOP!

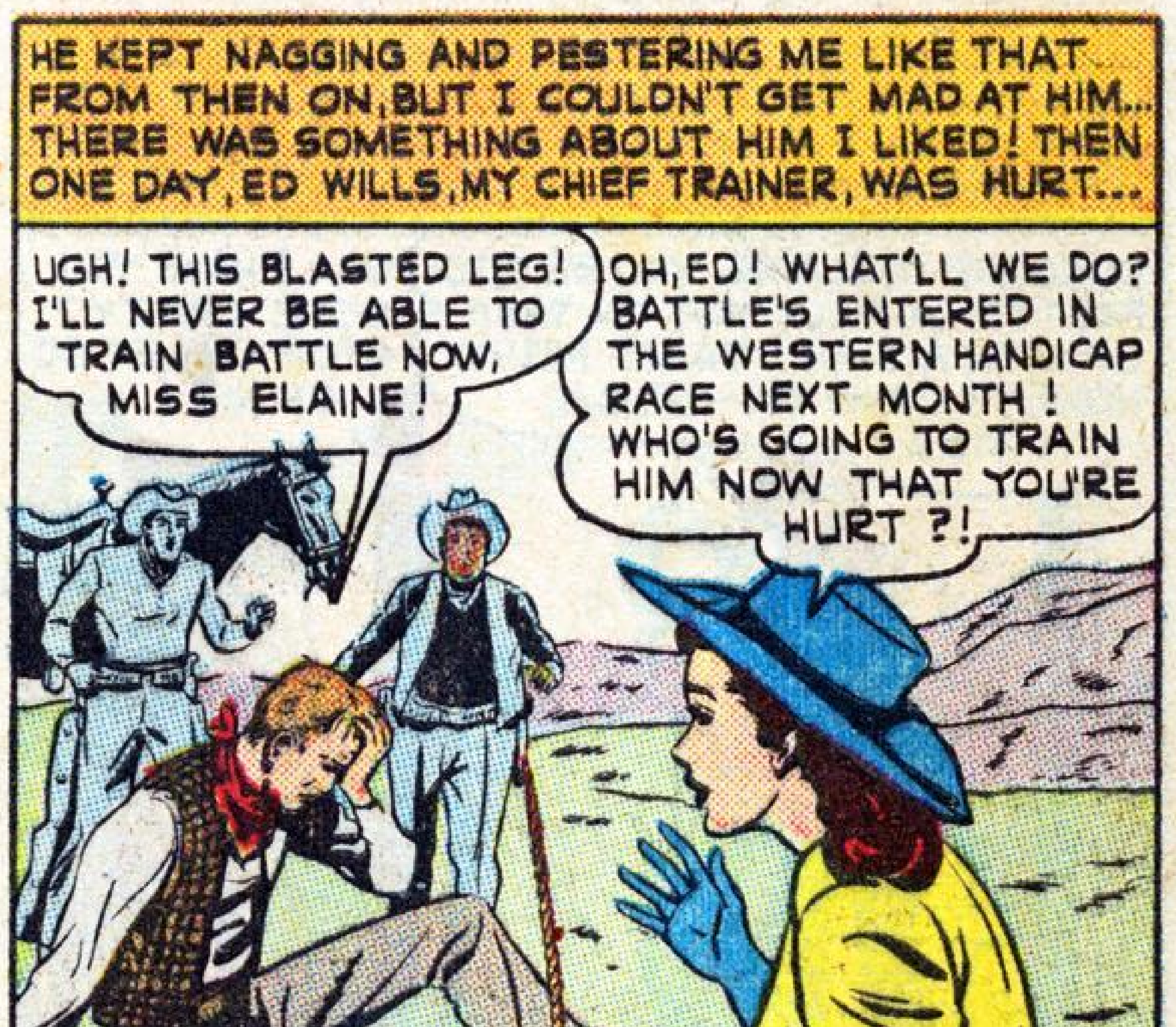

THEN HE LET GO OF ME! I WAS SHAKING LIKE A LEAF, BOTH FROM ANGER AND FROM THE FIRE HE HAD STARTED IN MY SOUL!
YOU'RE... FIRED! GET OUT! GET OFF MY RANCH!
OKAY, ELAINE! I WON'T SAY I'M SORRY, 'CAUSE I'M NOT...AT LEAST I KISSED YOU! MAYBE NOW YOU'LL LOOSEN UP AND GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK! LOVE ISN'T BAD, KID! DON'T FORGET--IT MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND!

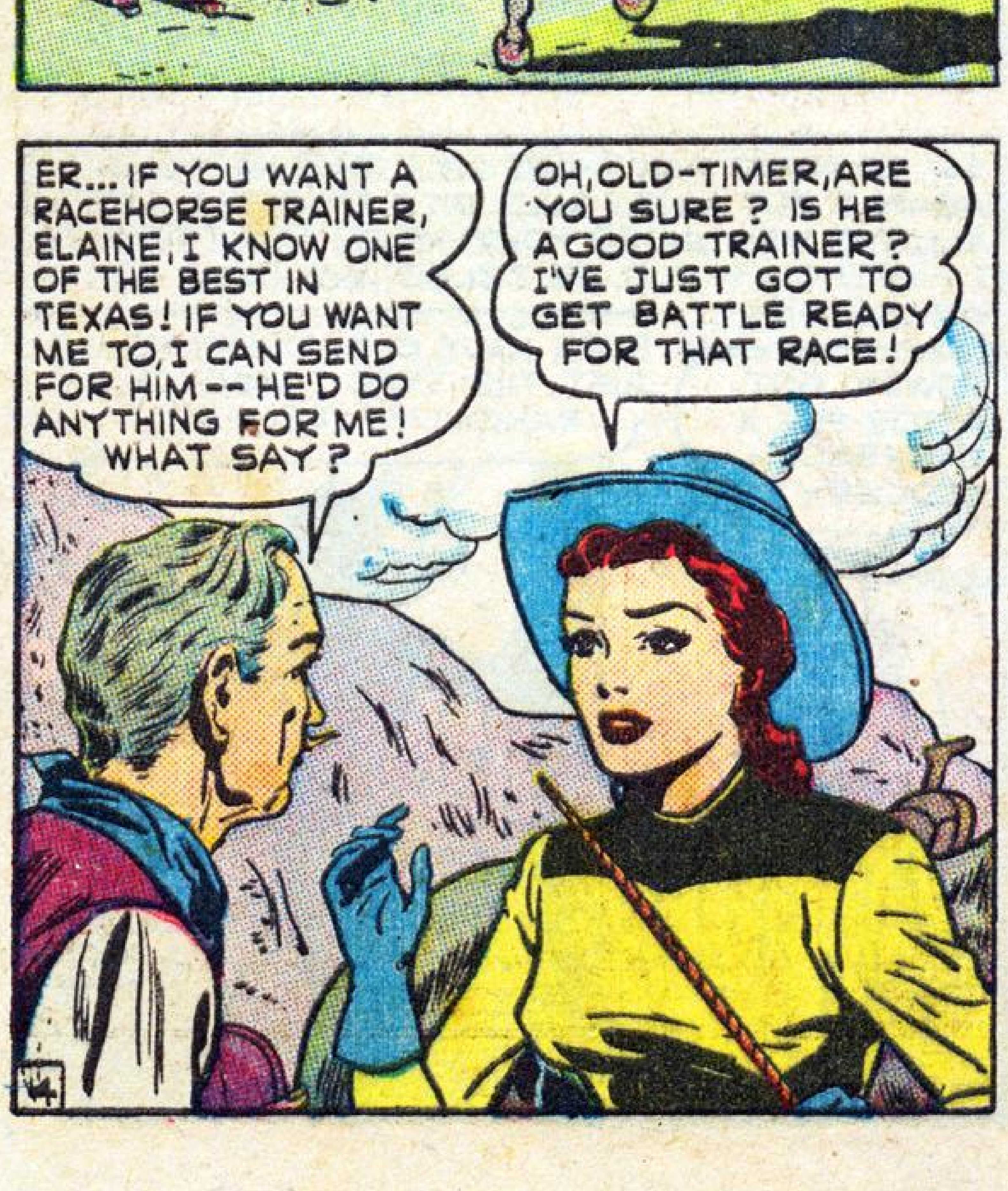

SO, TO AVOID ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING AGAIN, I PUT A NEW RULE INTO EFFECT! I FIRED ALL THE MEN UNDER FORTY-FIVE! FROM THEN ON I HIRED ONLY OLD, GRIZZLED AND UGLY PONY-WRANGLERS...
HOWDY! GOT A JOB FOR A SAGEBRUSH JOCKEY?
SURE HAVE, OLD-TIMER! YOU'RE JUST THE TYPE I WANT ON MY RANCH! YOU'RE HIRED!

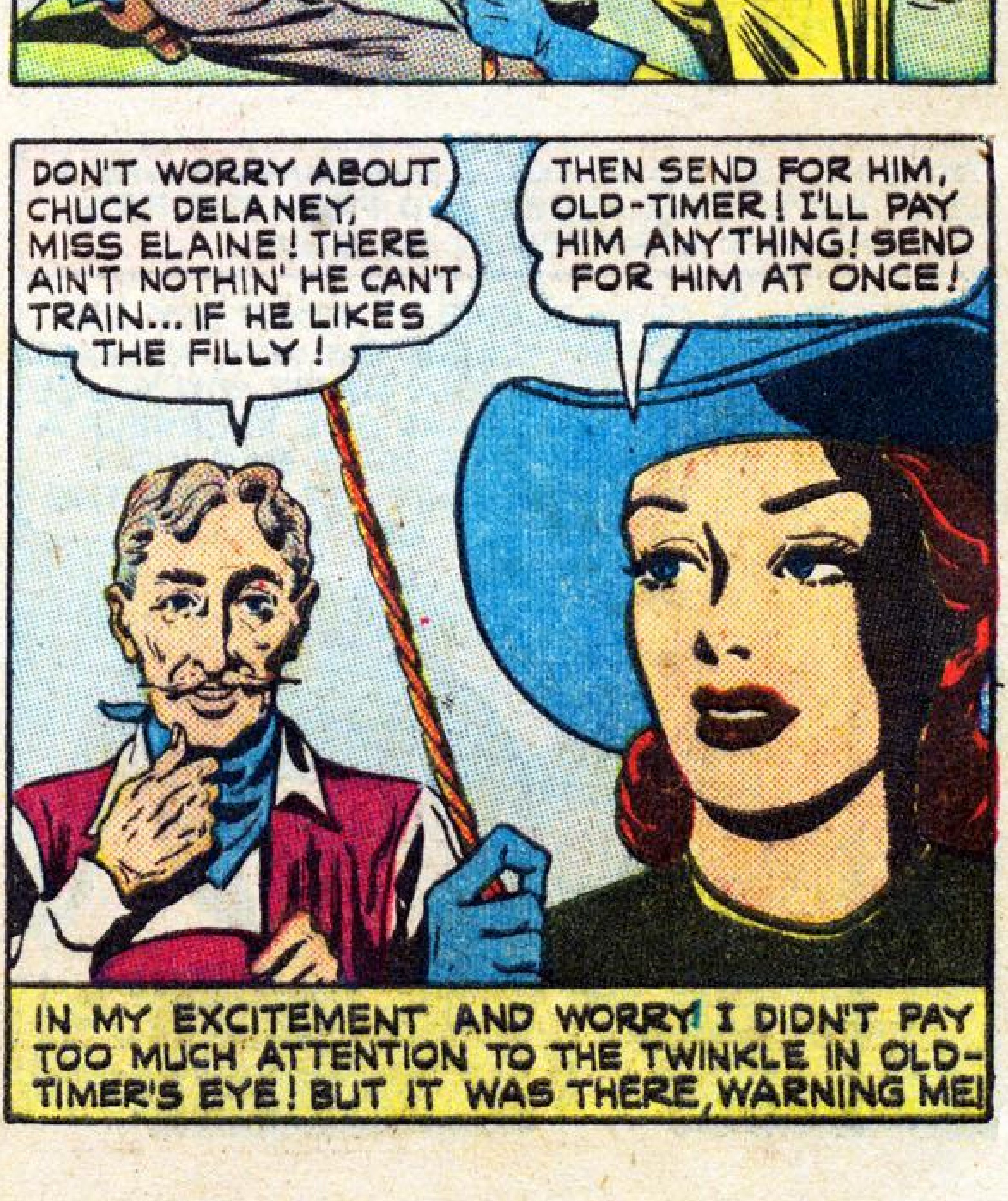

THE OLD SOURDOUGH LOOKED AS IF HE HAD NEVER HAD A HOME IN ALL HIS LIFE! THERE WAS A SADNESS ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT OF A GUN-SHY HOUND! I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR HIM AND I KEPT HIM AROUND ME...
SURE NICE OF YOU TO GIVE ME A JOB! THERE AIN'T MANY WHO'D GIVE WORK TO ONE AS OLD AND UGLY AS ME!
I LIKE MY HELP OLD AND UGLY, OLD-TIMER!

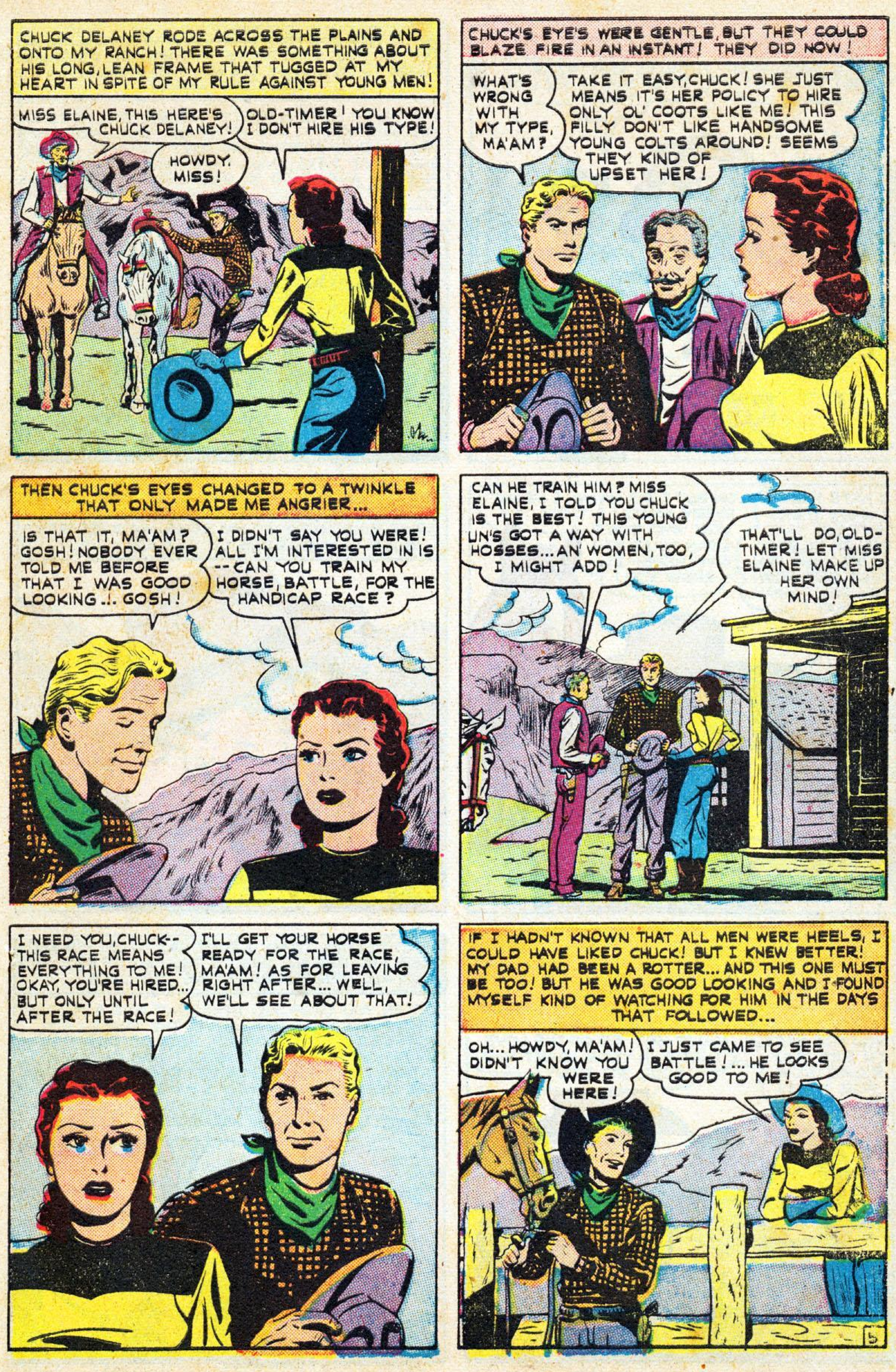

AS THE WEEKS PASSED, OLD-TIMER MADE HIMSELF USEFUL IN THE WORK... BUT ANNOYING IN OTHER WAYS...
HOW COME A GAL LIKE YOU DON'T GO OUT TO DANCES AN' MEET YOUNG MEN? T'AINT RIGHT! YOU SO YOUNG AND PRETTY AND ALL!
LOOK, OLD-TIMER, I LIKE YOU! YOU'RE A NICE OLD COOT... BUT MY PRIVATE LIFE IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS... AND I'LL THANK YOU TO SHUT UP!

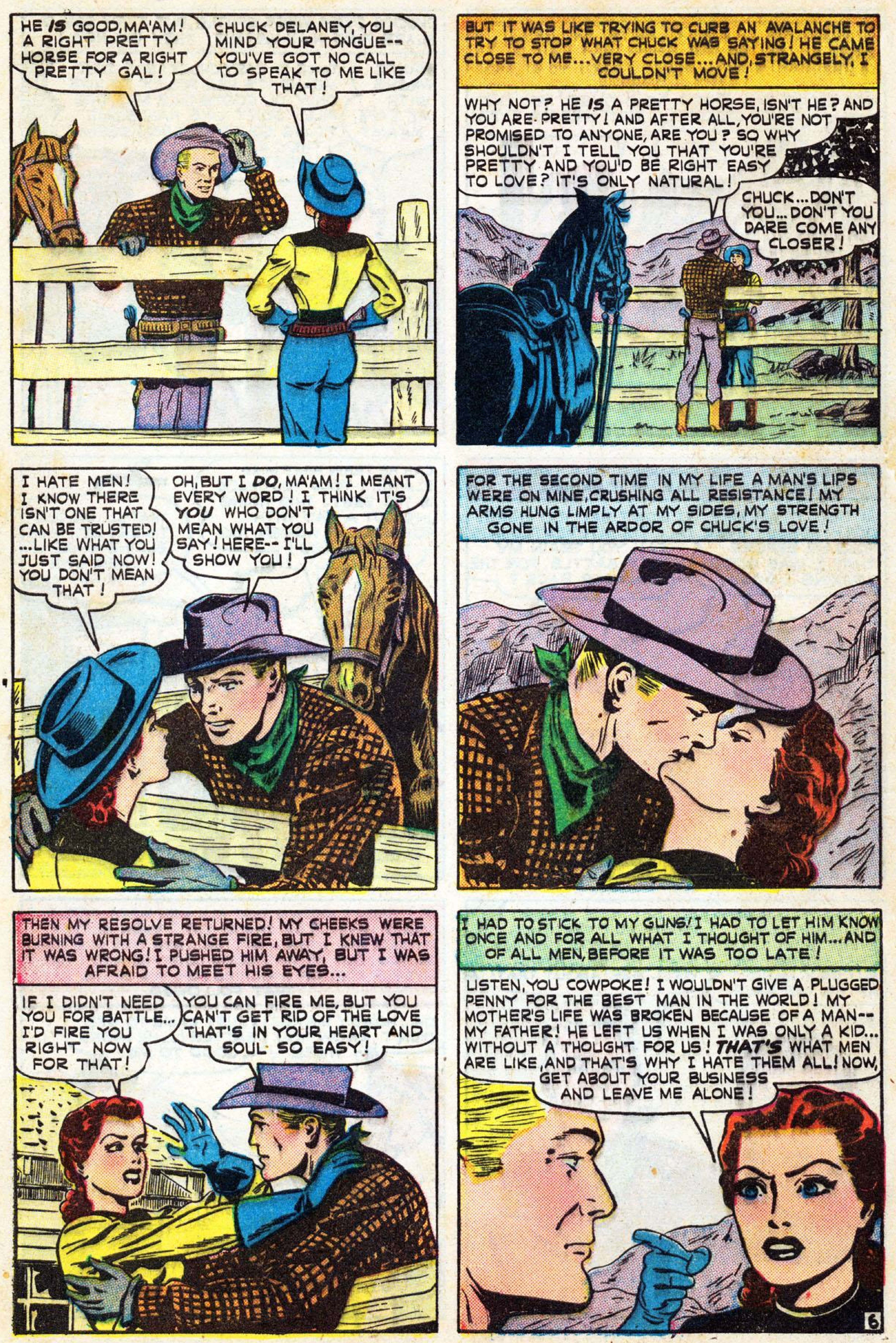

SURE... I'LL SHUT UP! BUT IT STILL AIN'T RIGHT-- LIVING IN A SHELL THE WAY YOU DO! WOMAN WAS MADE FOR LOVE, BOSS LADY... AND YOU'RE A WOMAN!
I'M PAYING YOU NO ATTENTION, OLD-TIMER! NOW GO FIX THAT FENCE ON THE NORTH RANCH!

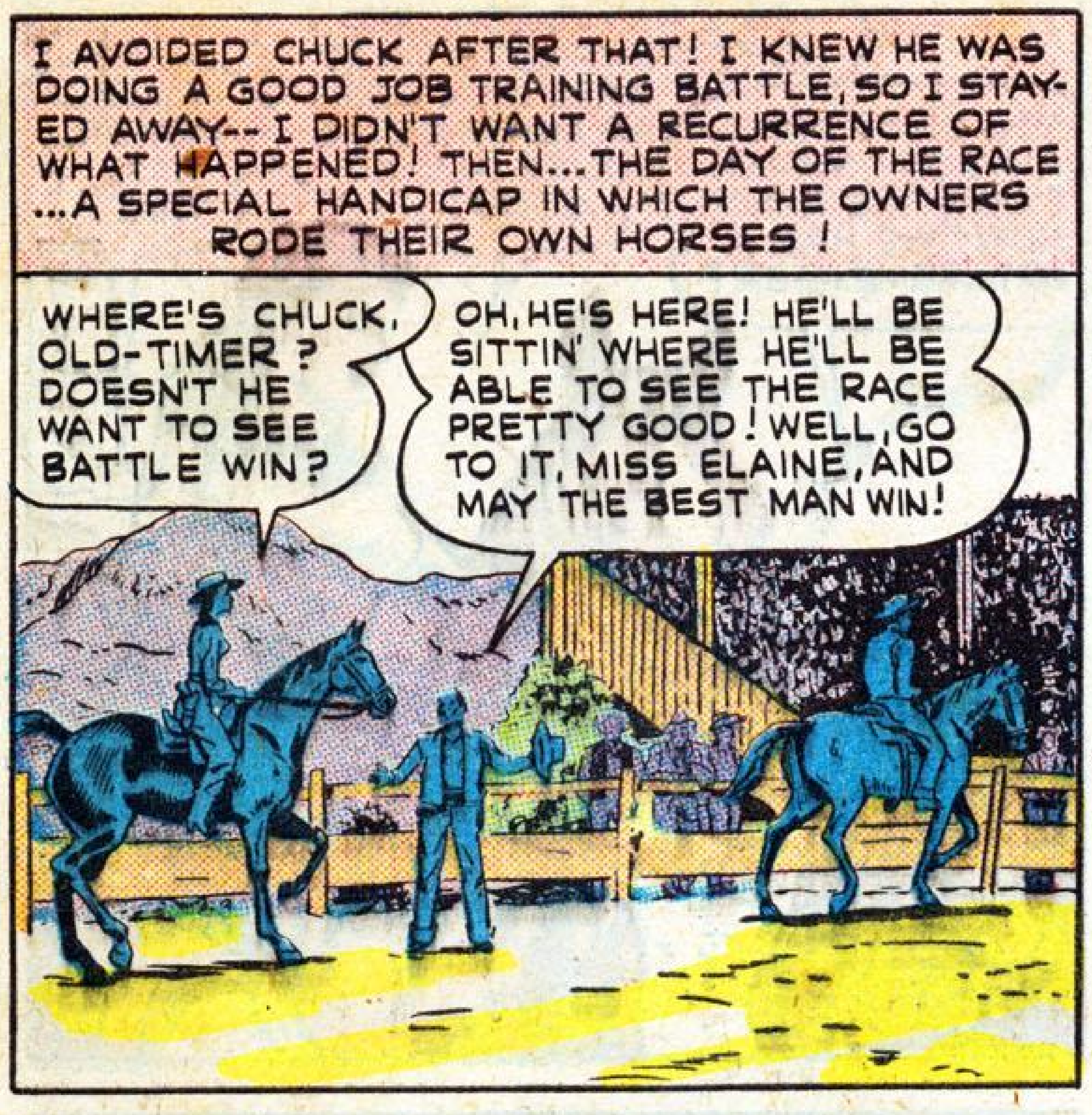

HE KEPT NAGGING AND PESTERING ME LIKE THAT FROM THEN ON, BUT I COULDN'T GET MAD AT HIM... THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM I LIKED! THEN ONE DAY, ED WILLS, MY CHIEF TRAINER, WAS HURT...
UGH! THIS BLASTED LEG! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRAIN BATTLE NOW, MISS ELAINE!
OH, ED! WHAT'LL WE DO? BATTLE'S ENTERED IN THE WESTERN HANDICAP RACE NEXT MONTH! WHO'S GOING TO TRAIN HIM NOW THAT YOU'RE HURT?!

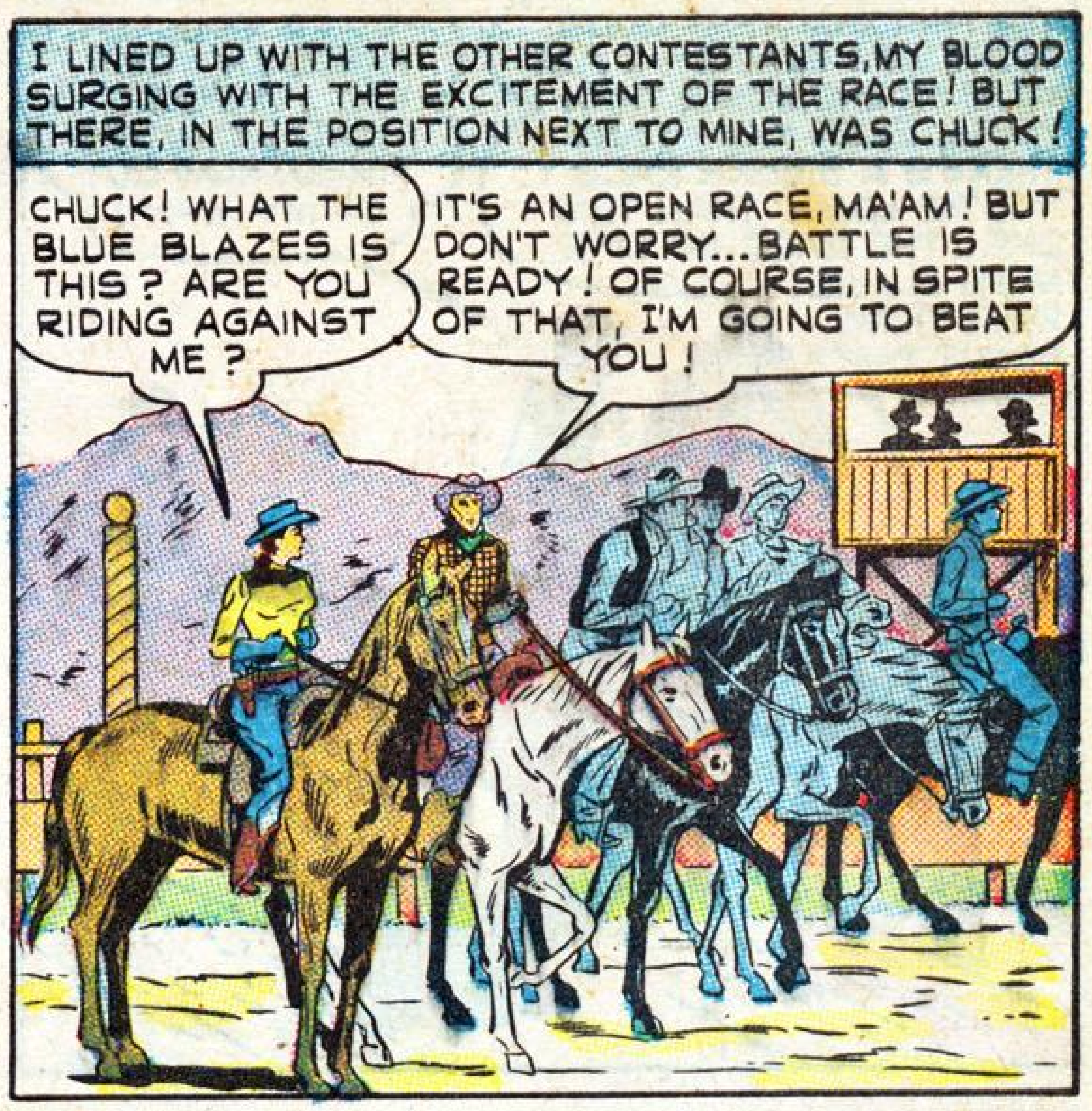

ER... IF YOU WANT A RACEHORSE TRAINER, ELAINE, I KNOW ONE OF THE BEST IN TEXAS! IF YOU WANT ME TO, I CAN SEND FOR HIM -- HE'D DO ANYTHING FOR ME! WHAT SAY?
OH, OLD-TIMER, ARE YOU SURE? IS HE A GOOD TRAINER? I'VE JUST GOT TO GET BATTLE READY FOR THAT RACE!

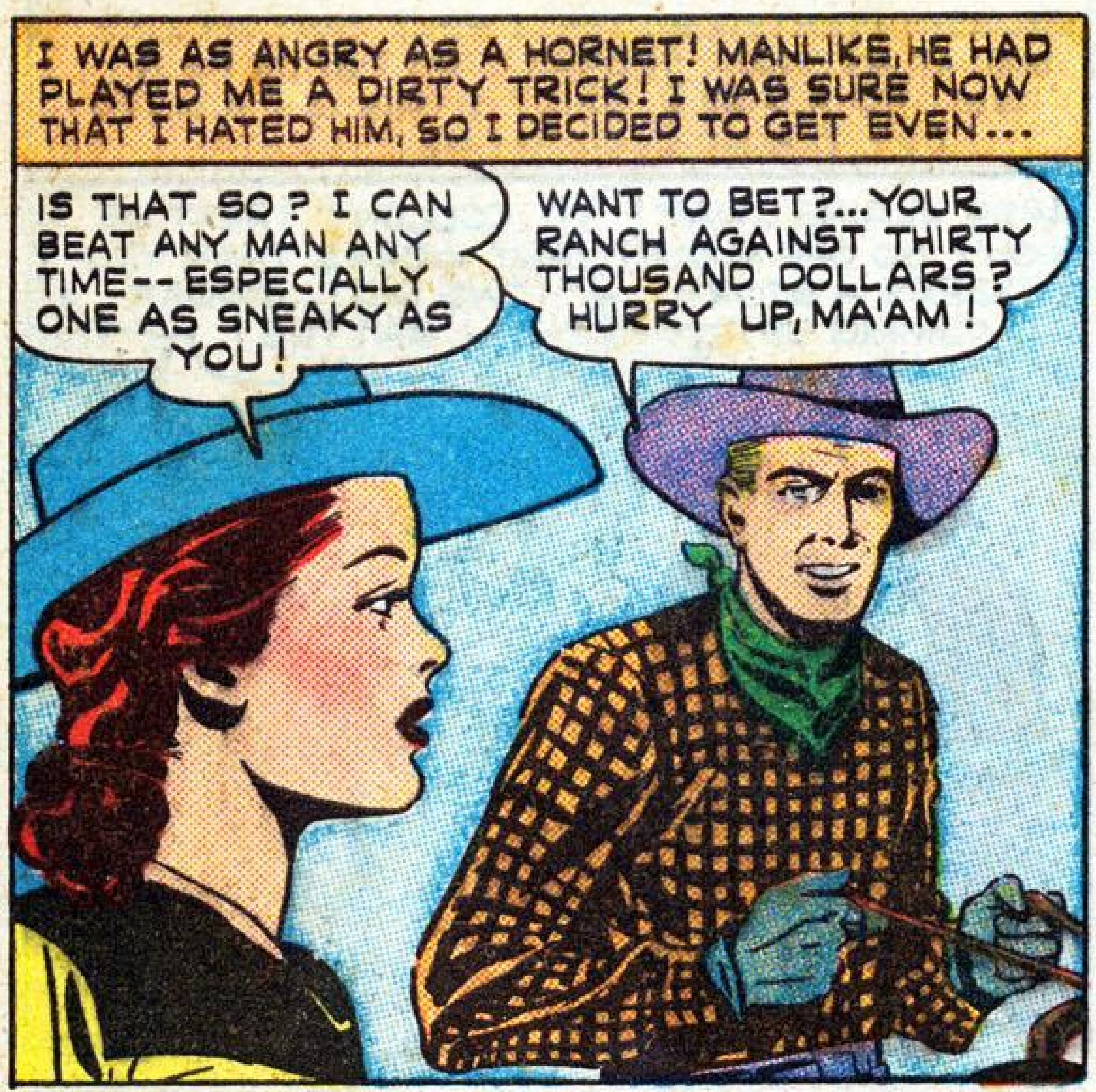

DON'T WORRY ABOUT CHUCK DELANEY, MISS ELAINE! THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' HE CAN'T TRAIN... IF HE LIKES THE FILLY!
THEN SEND FOR HIM, OLD-TIMER! I'LL PAY HIM ANYTHING! SEND FOR HIM AT ONCE!
IN MY EXCITEMENT AND WORRY I DIDN'T PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE TWINKLE IN OLD-TIMER'S EYE! BUT IT WAS THERE, WARNING ME!

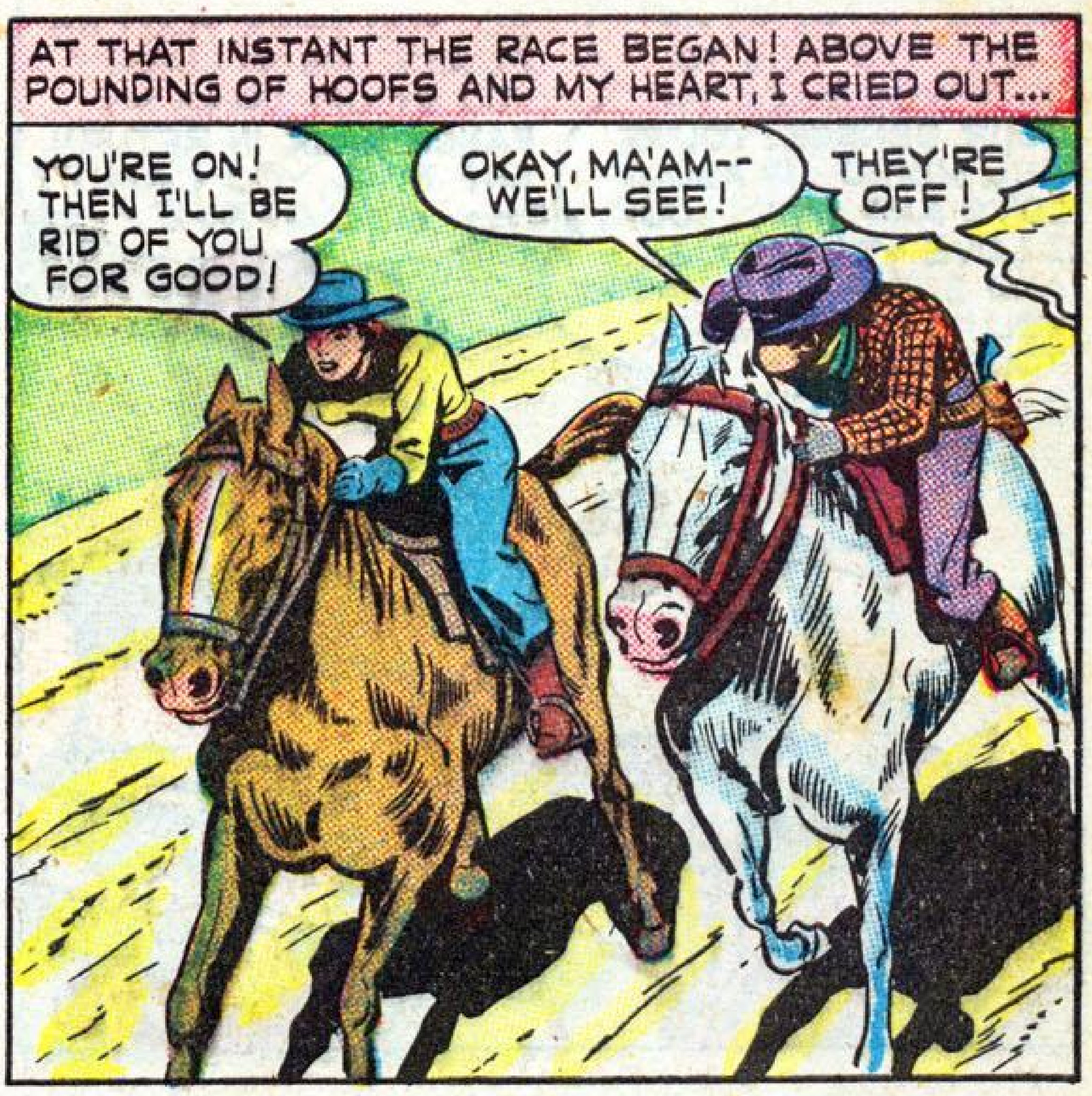

CHUCK DELANEY RODE ACROSS THE PLAINS AND ONTO MY RANCH! THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS LONG, LEAN FRAME THAT TUGGED AT MY HEART IN SPITE OF MY RULE AGAINST YOUNG MEN!
MISS ELAINE, THIS HERE'S CHUCK DELANEY!
OLD-TIMER! YOU KNOW I DON'T HIRE HIS TYPE!
HOWDY, MISS!
CHUCK'S EYE'S WERE GENTLE, BUT THEY COULD BLAZE FIRE IN AN INSTANT! THEY DID NOW!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY TYPE, MA'AM?
TAKE IT EASY, CHUCK! SHE JUST MEANS IT'S HER POLICY TO HIRE ONLY OL' COOTS LIKE ME! THIS FILLY DON'T LIKE HANDSOME YOUNG COLTS AROUND! SEEMS THEY KIND OF UPSET HER!
THEN CHUCK'S EYES CHANGED TO A TWINKLE THAT ONLY MADE ME ANGRIER...
IS THAT IT, MA'AM? GOSH! NOBODY EVER TOLD ME BEFORE THAT I WAS GOOD LOOKING..!.. GOSH!
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE! ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS -- CAN YOU TRAIN MY HORSE, BATTLE, FOR THE HANDICAP RACE?
CAN HE TRAIN HIM? MISS ELAINE, I TOLD YOU CHUCK IS THE BEST! THIS YOUNG UN'S GOT A WAY WITH HOSSES... AN' WOMEN, TOO, I MIGHT ADD!
THAT'LL DO, OLD-TIMER! LET MISS ELAINE MAKE UP HER OWN MIND!
I NEED YOU, CHUCK-- THIS RACE MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME! OKAY, YOU'RE HIRED... BUT ONLY UNTIL AFTER THE RACE!
I'LL GET YOUR HORSE READY FOR THE RACE, MA'AM! AS FOR LEAVING RIGHT AFTER... WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
IF I HADN'T KNOWN THAT ALL MEN WERE HEELS, I COULD HAVE LIKED CHUCK! BUT I KNEW BETTER! MY DAD HAD BEEN A ROTTER... AND THIS ONE MUST BE TOO! BUT HE WAS GOOD LOOKING AND I FOUND MYSELF KIND OF WATCHING FOR HIM IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED...
OH... HOWDY, MA'AM! DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE!
I JUST CAME TO SEE BATTLE!... HE LOOKS GOOD TO ME!

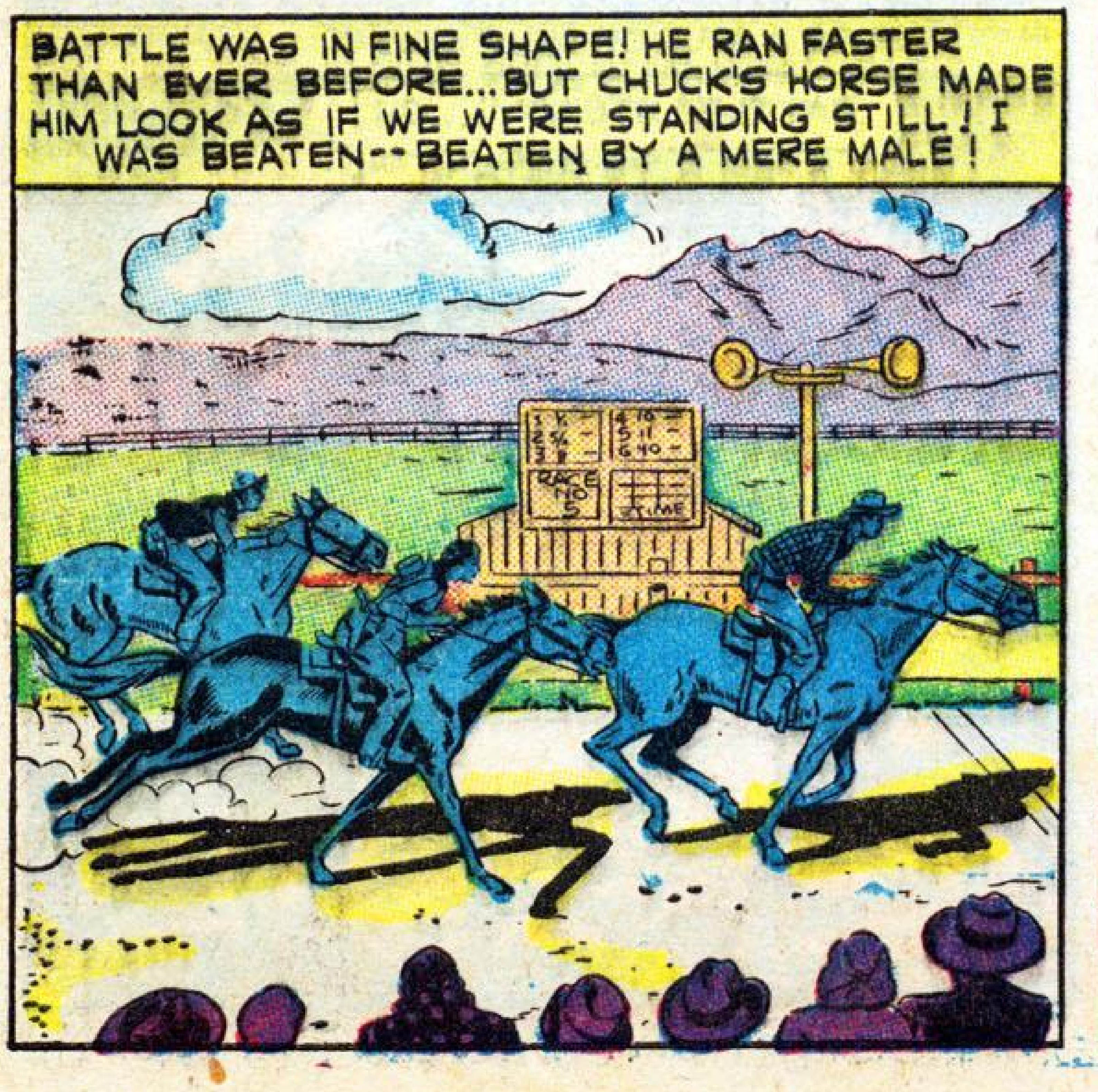

HE *IS* GOOD, MA'AM! A RIGHT PRETTY HORSE FOR A RIGHT PRETTY GAL!
CHUCK DELANEY, YOU MIND YOUR TONGUE-- YOU'VE GOT NO CALL TO SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT!
BUT IT WAS LIKE TRYING TO CURB AN AVALANCHE TO TRY TO STOP WHAT CHUCK WAS SAYING! HE CAME CLOSE TO ME... VERY CLOSE... AND, STRANGELY, I COULDN'T MOVE!
WHY NOT? HE *IS* A PRETTY HORSE, ISN'T HE? AND YOU ARE PRETTY! AND AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT PROMISED TO ANYONE, ARE YOU? SO WHY SHOULDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE PRETTY AND YOU'D BE RIGHT EASY TO LOVE? IT'S ONLY NATURAL!
CHUCK... DON'T YOU... DON'T YOU DARE COME ANY CLOSER!
I HATE MEN! I KNOW THERE ISN'T ONE THAT CAN BE TRUSTED! ...LIKE WHAT YOU JUST SAID NOW! YOU DON'T MEAN THAT!
OH, BUT I *DO*, MA'AM! I MEANT EVERY WORD! I THINK IT'S *YOU* WHO DON'T MEAN WHAT YOU SAY! HERE-- I'LL SHOW YOU!
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN MY LIFE A MAN'S LIPS WERE ON MINE, CRUSHING ALL RESISTANCE! MY ARMS HUNG LIMPLY AT MY SIDES, MY STRENGTH GONE IN THE ARDOR OF CHUCK'S LOVE!
THEN MY RESOLVE RETURNED! MY CHEEKS WERE BURNING WITH A STRANGE FIRE, BUT I KNEW THAT IT WAS WRONG! I PUSHED HIM AWAY, BUT I WAS AFRAID TO MEET HIS EYES...
IF I DIDN'T NEED YOU FOR BATTLE... I'D FIRE YOU RIGHT NOW FOR THAT!
YOU CAN FIRE ME, BUT YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THE LOVE THAT'S IN YOUR HEART AND SOUL SO EASY!
I HAD TO STICK TO MY GUNS! I HAD TO LET HIM KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL WHAT I THOUGHT OF HIM... AND OF ALL MEN, BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!
LISTEN, YOU COWPOKE! I WOULDN'T GIVE A PLUGGED PENNY FOR THE BEST MAN IN THE WORLD! MY MOTHER'S LIFE WAS BROKEN BECAUSE OF A MAN-- MY FATHER! HE LEFT US WHEN I WAS ONLY A KID... WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR US! *THAT'S* WHAT MEN ARE LIKE, AND THAT'S WHY I HATE THEM ALL! NOW, GET ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

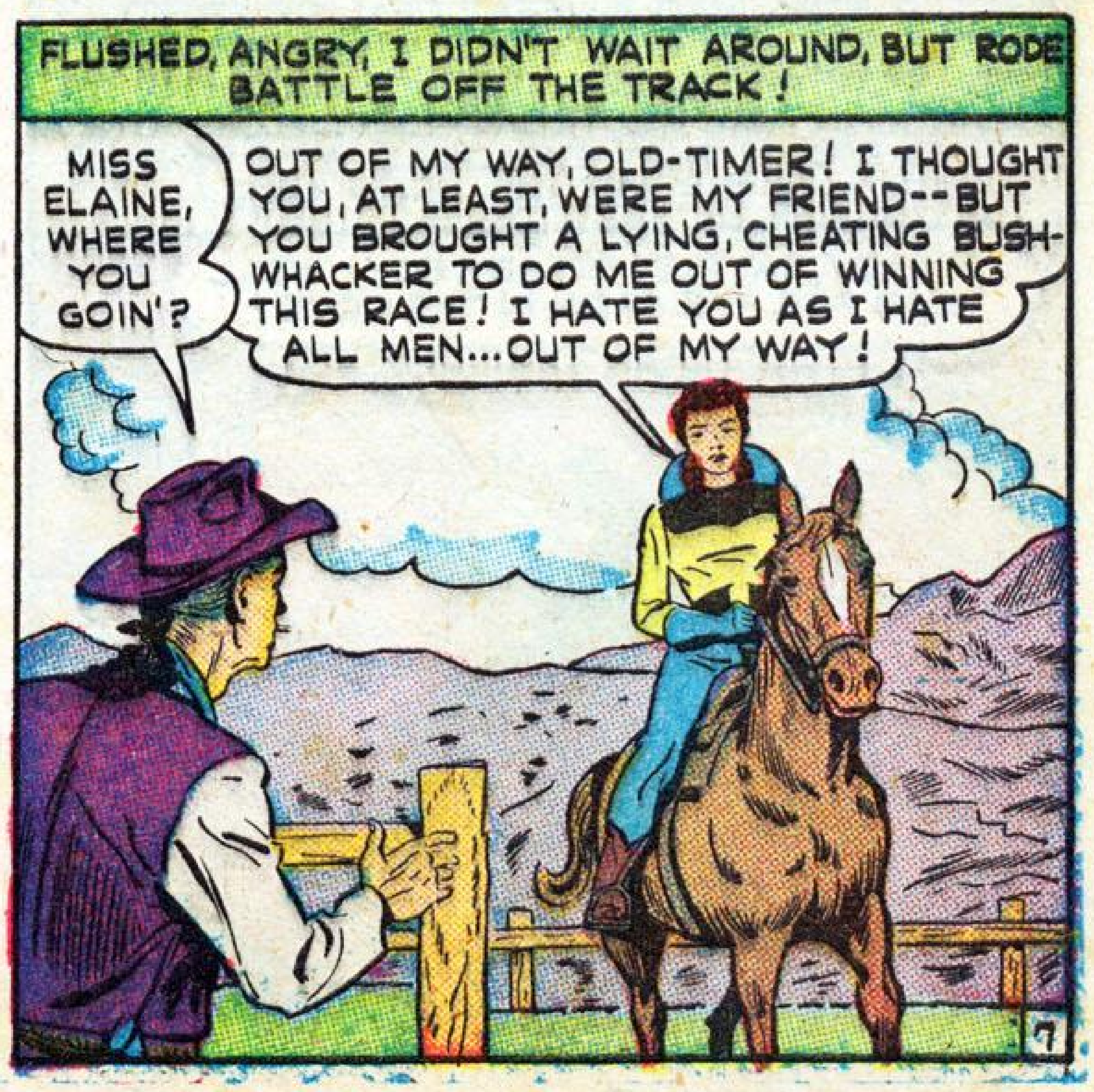

I AVOIDED CHUCK AFTER THAT! I KNEW HE WAS DOING A GOOD JOB TRAINING BATTLE, SO I STAYED AWAY-- I DIDN'T WANT A RECURRENCE OF WHAT HAPPENED! THEN... THE DAY OF THE RACE ...A SPECIAL HANDICAP IN WHICH THE OWNERS RODE THEIR OWN HORSES!
WHERE'S CHUCK, OLD-TIMER? DOESN'T HE WANT TO SEE BATTLE WIN?
OH, HE'S HERE! HE'LL BE SITTIN' WHERE HE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE RACE PRETTY GOOD! WELL, GO TO IT, MISS ELAINE, AND MAY THE BEST MAN WIN!

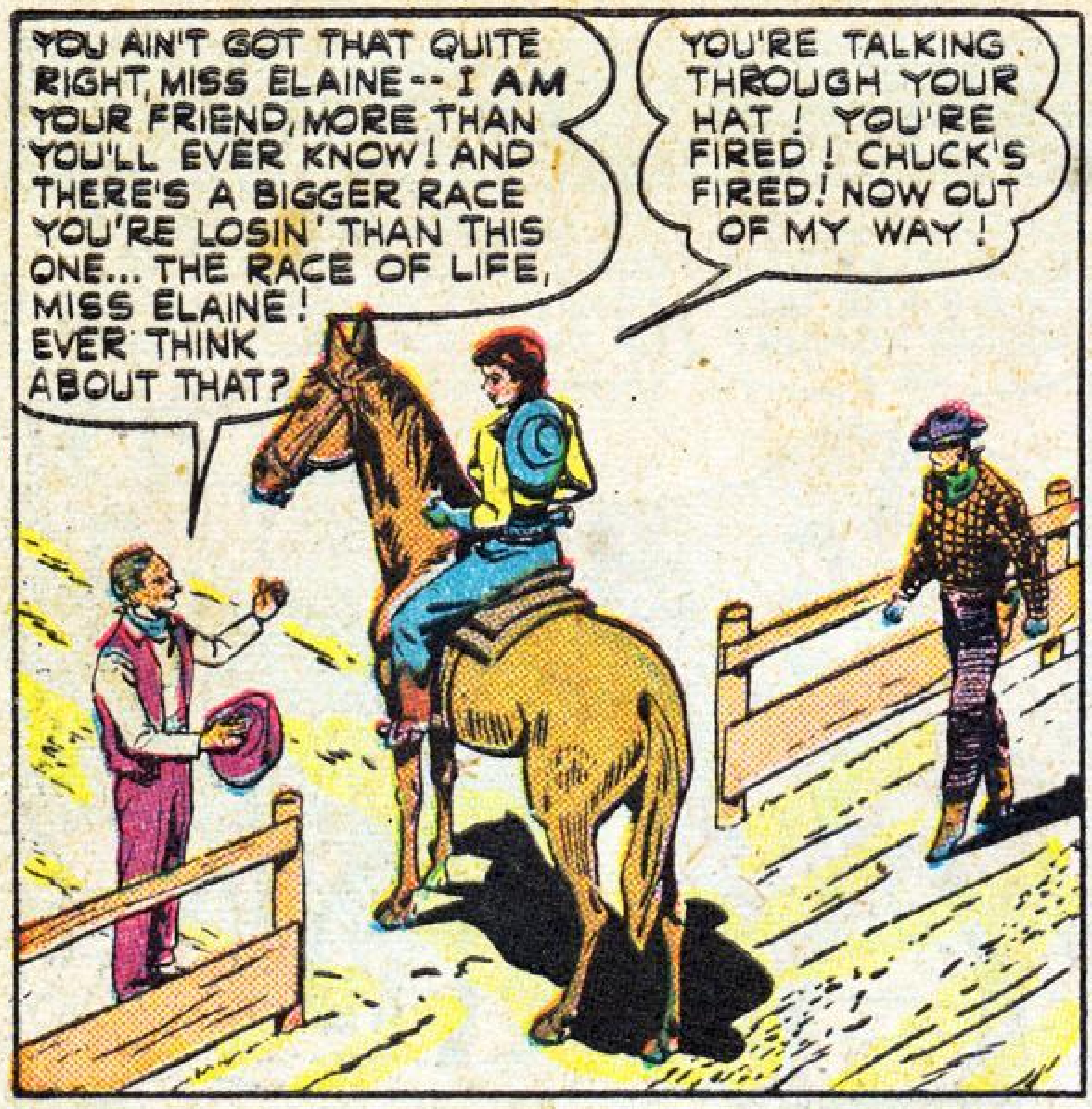

I LINED UP WITH THE OTHER CONTESTANTS, MY BLOOD SURGING WITH THE EXCITEMENT OF THE RACE! BUT THERE, IN THE POSITION NEXT TO MINE, WAS CHUCK!
CHUCK! WHAT THE BLUE BLAZES IS THIS? ARE YOU RIDING AGAINST ME?
IT'S AN OPEN RACE, MA'AM! BUT DON'T WORRY... BATTLE IS READY! OF COURSE, IN SPITE OF THAT, I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU!

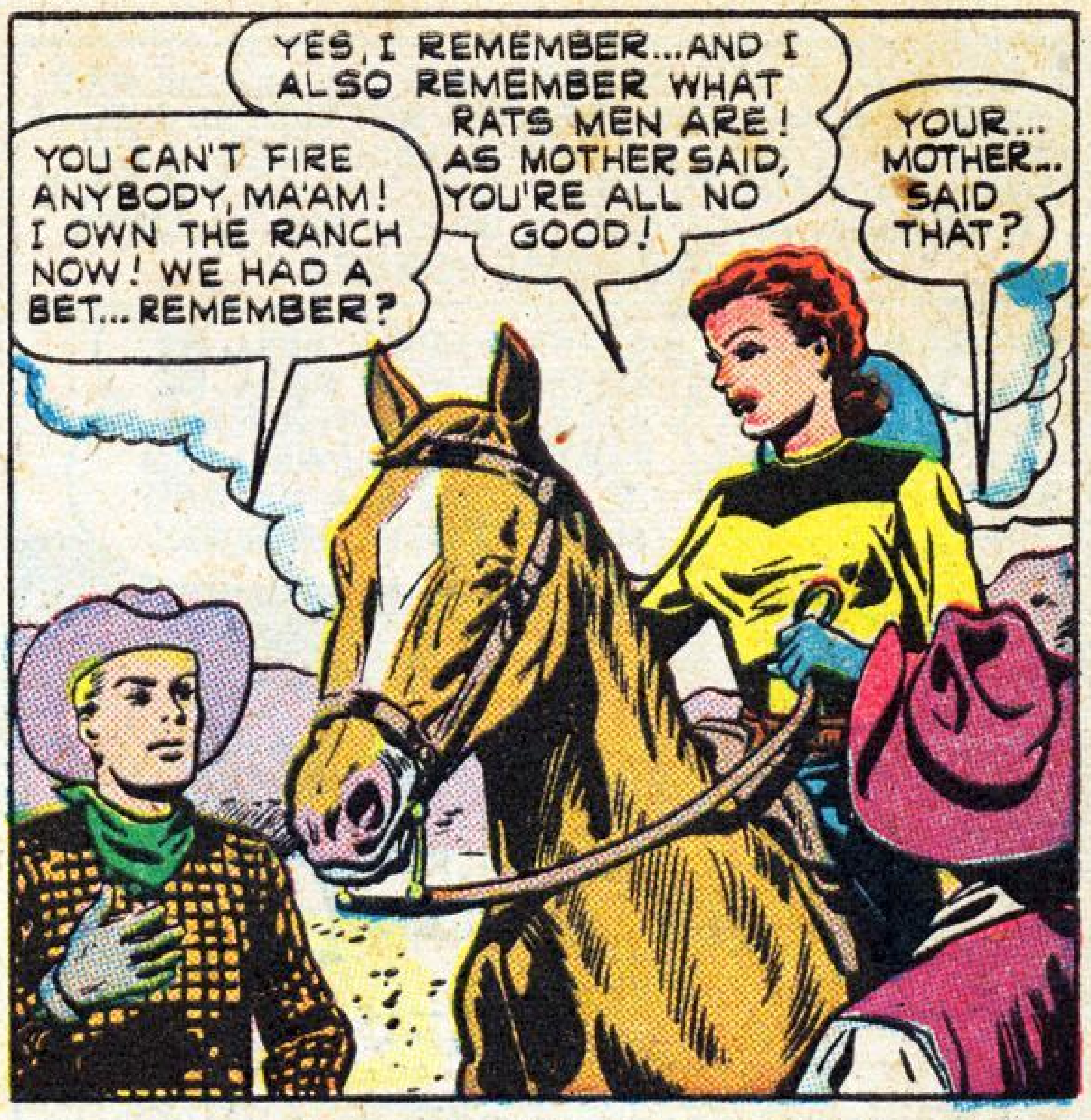

I WAS AS ANGRY AS A HORNET! MANLIKE, HE HAD PLAYED ME A DIRTY TRICK! I WAS SURE NOW THAT I HATED HIM, SO I DECIDED TO GET EVEN...
IS THAT SO? I CAN BEAT ANY MAN ANY TIME-- ESPECIALLY ONE AS SNEAKY AS YOU!
WANT TO BET?... YOUR RANCH AGAINST THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS? HURRY UP, MA'AM!

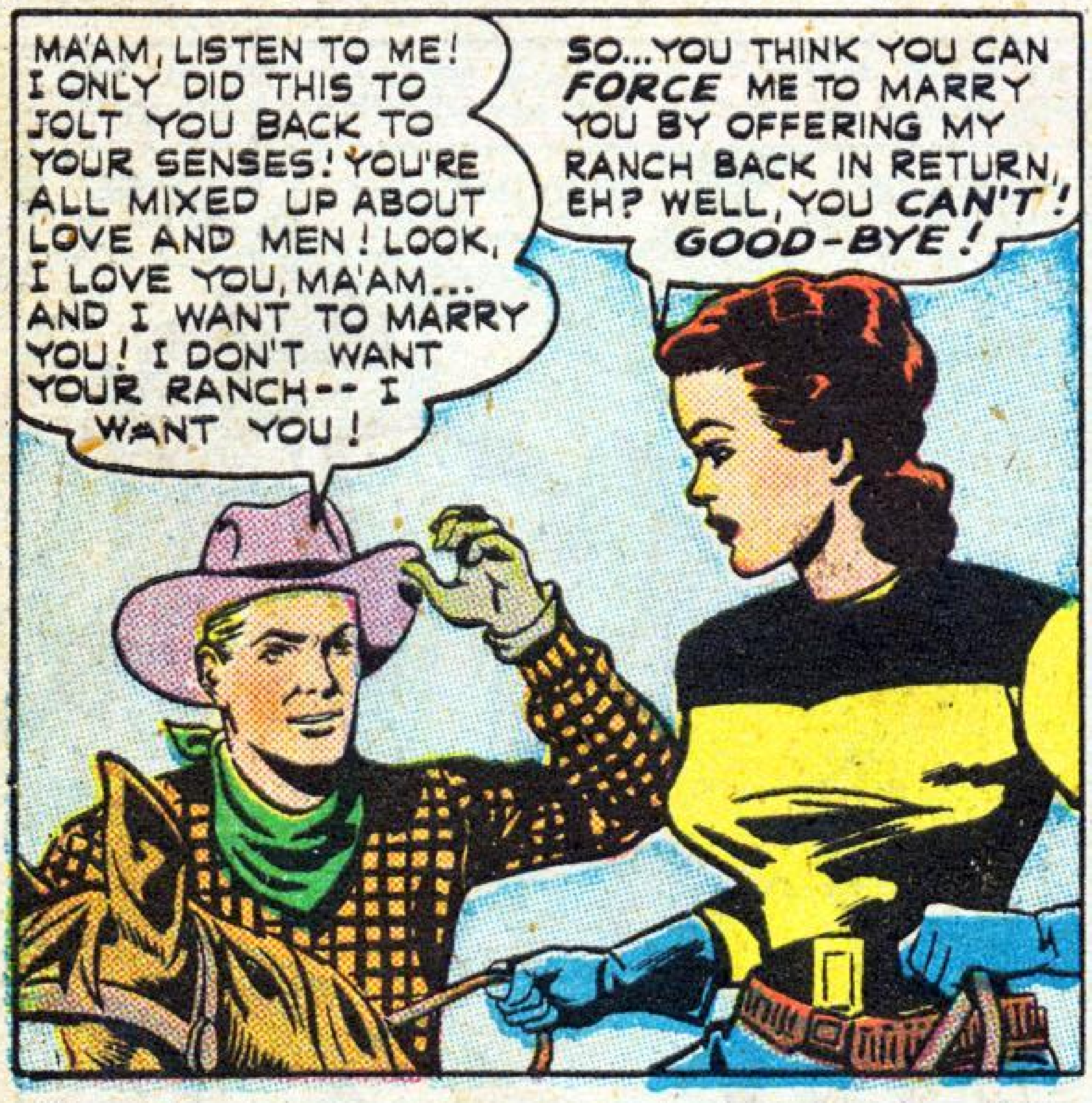

AT THAT INSTANT THE RACE BEGAN! ABOVE THE POUNDING OF HOOFS AND MY HEART, I CRIED OUT...
YOU'RE ON! THEN I'LL BE RID OF YOU FOR GOOD!
OKAY, MA'AM-- WE'LL SEE!
THEY'RE OFF!

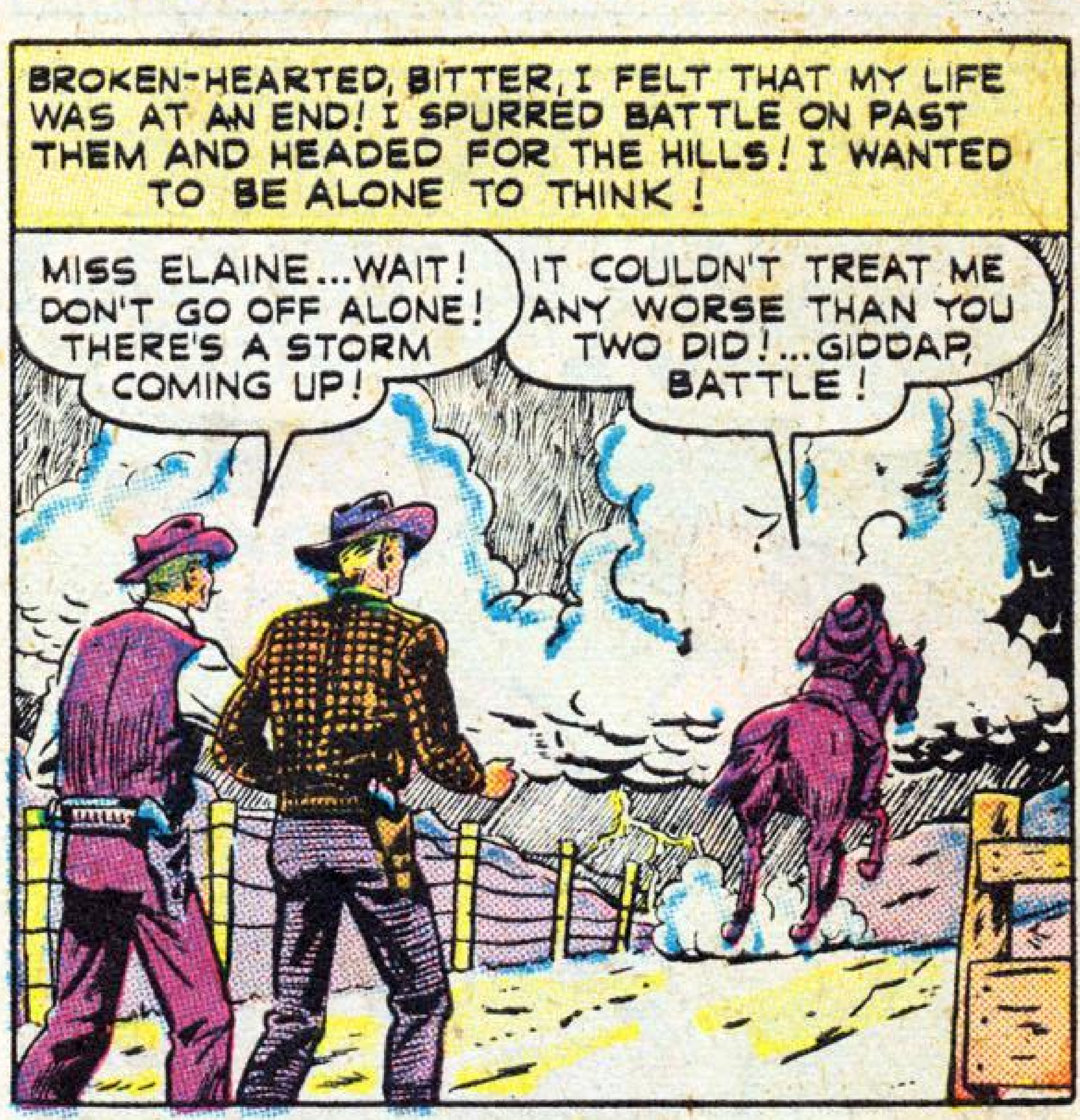

BATTLE WAS IN FINE SHAPE! HE RAN FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE... BUT CHUCK'S HORSE MADE HIM LOOK AS IF WE WERE STANDING STILL! I WAS BEATEN-- BEATEN BY A MERE MALE!
RACE
TIME

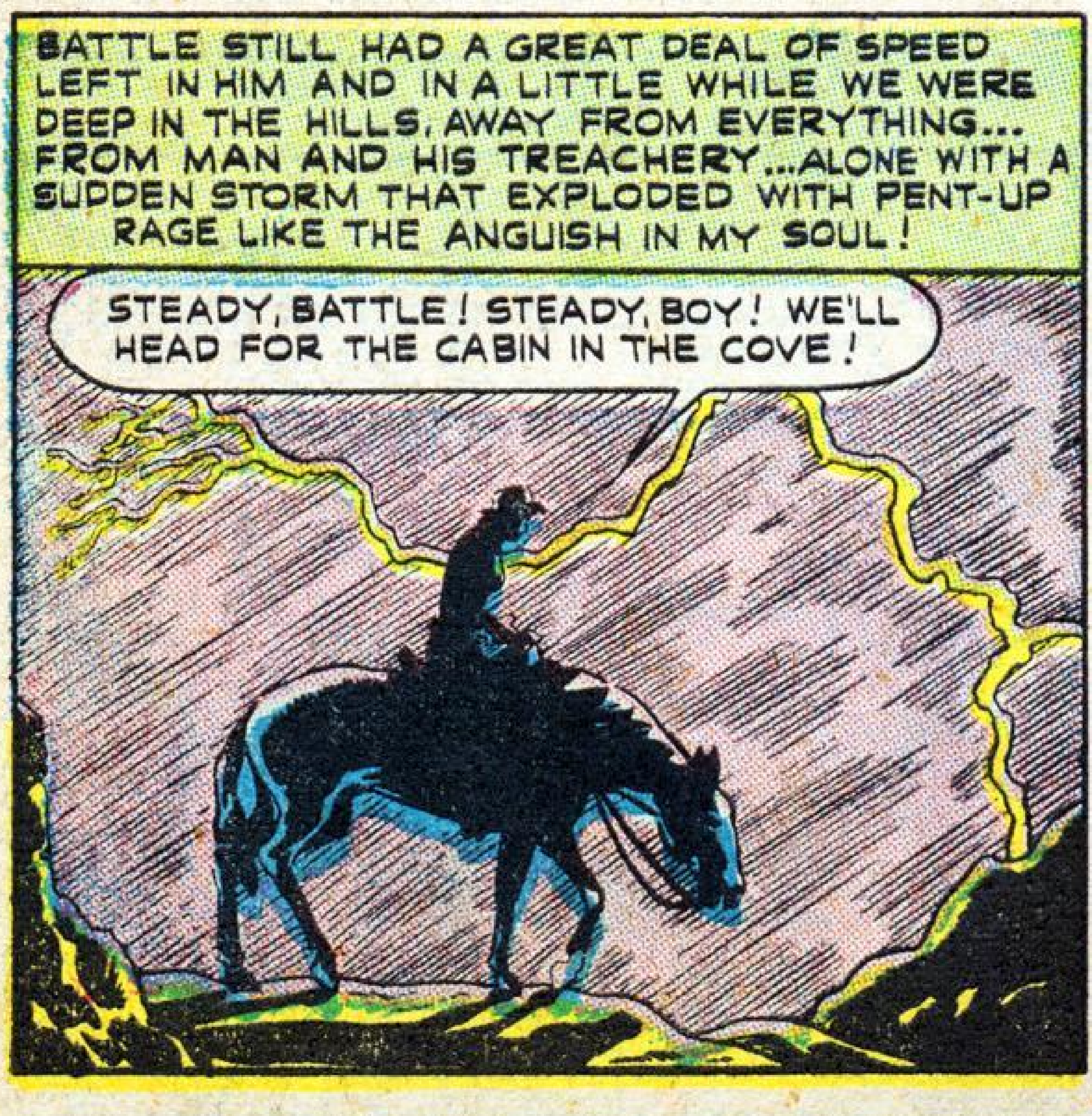

FLUSHED, ANGRY, I DIDN'T WAIT AROUND, BUT RODE BATTLE OFF THE TRACK!
MISS ELAINE, WHERE YOU GOIN'?
OUT OF MY WAY, OLD-TIMER! I THOUGHT YOU, AT LEAST, WERE MY FRIEND-- BUT YOU BROUGHT A LYING, CHEATING BUSHWHACKER TO DO ME OUT OF WINNING THIS RACE! I HATE YOU AS I HATE ALL MEN... OUT OF MY WAY!

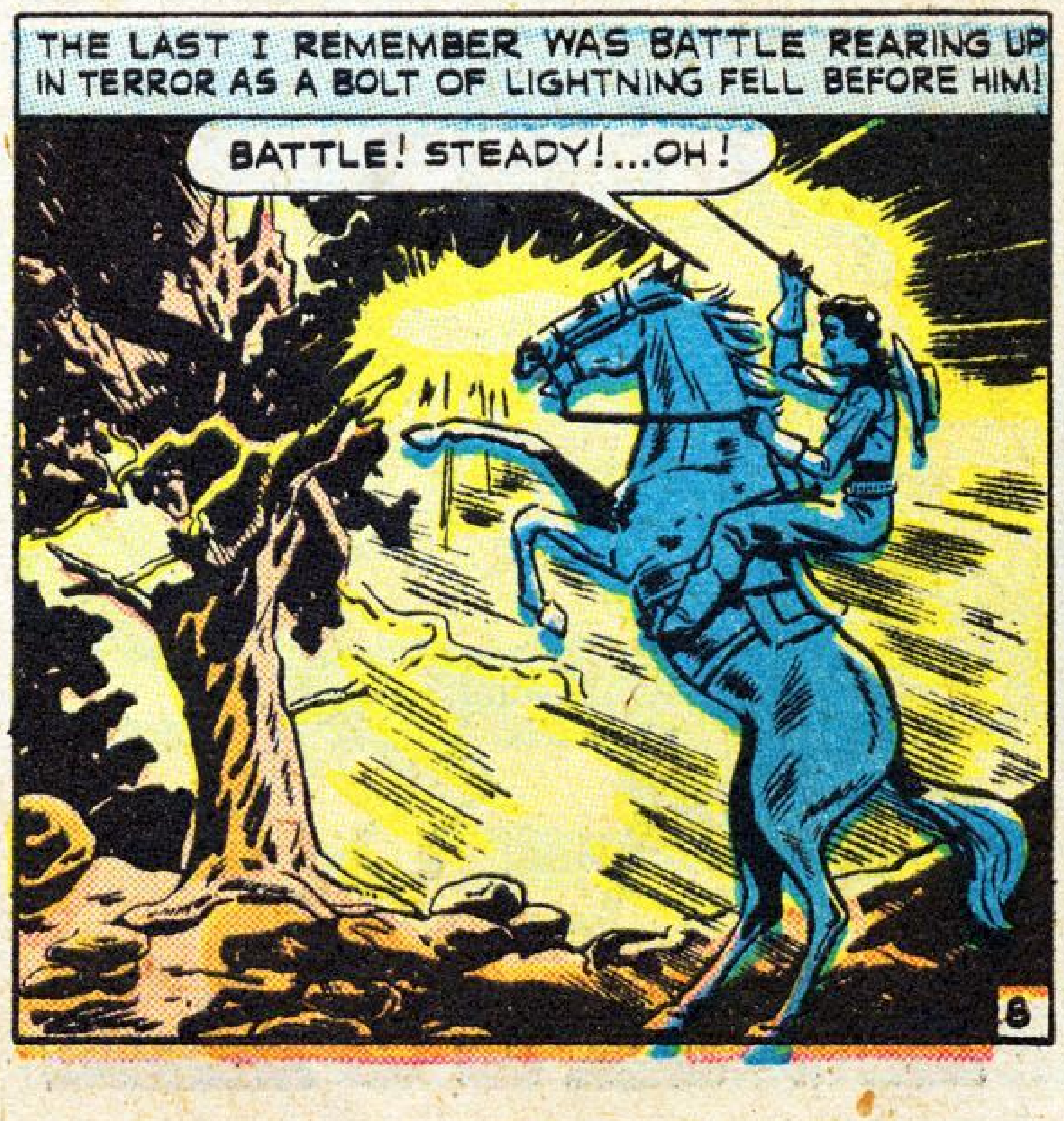

YOU AIN'T GOT THAT QUITE RIGHT, MISS ELAINE -- I **AM** YOUR FRIEND, MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW! AND THERE'S A BIGGER RACE YOU'RE LOSIN' THAN THIS ONE... THE RACE OF LIFE, MISS ELAINE! EVER THINK ABOUT THAT?
YOU'RE TALKING THROUGH YOUR HAT! YOU'RE FIRED! CHUCK'S FIRED! NOW OUT OF MY WAY!

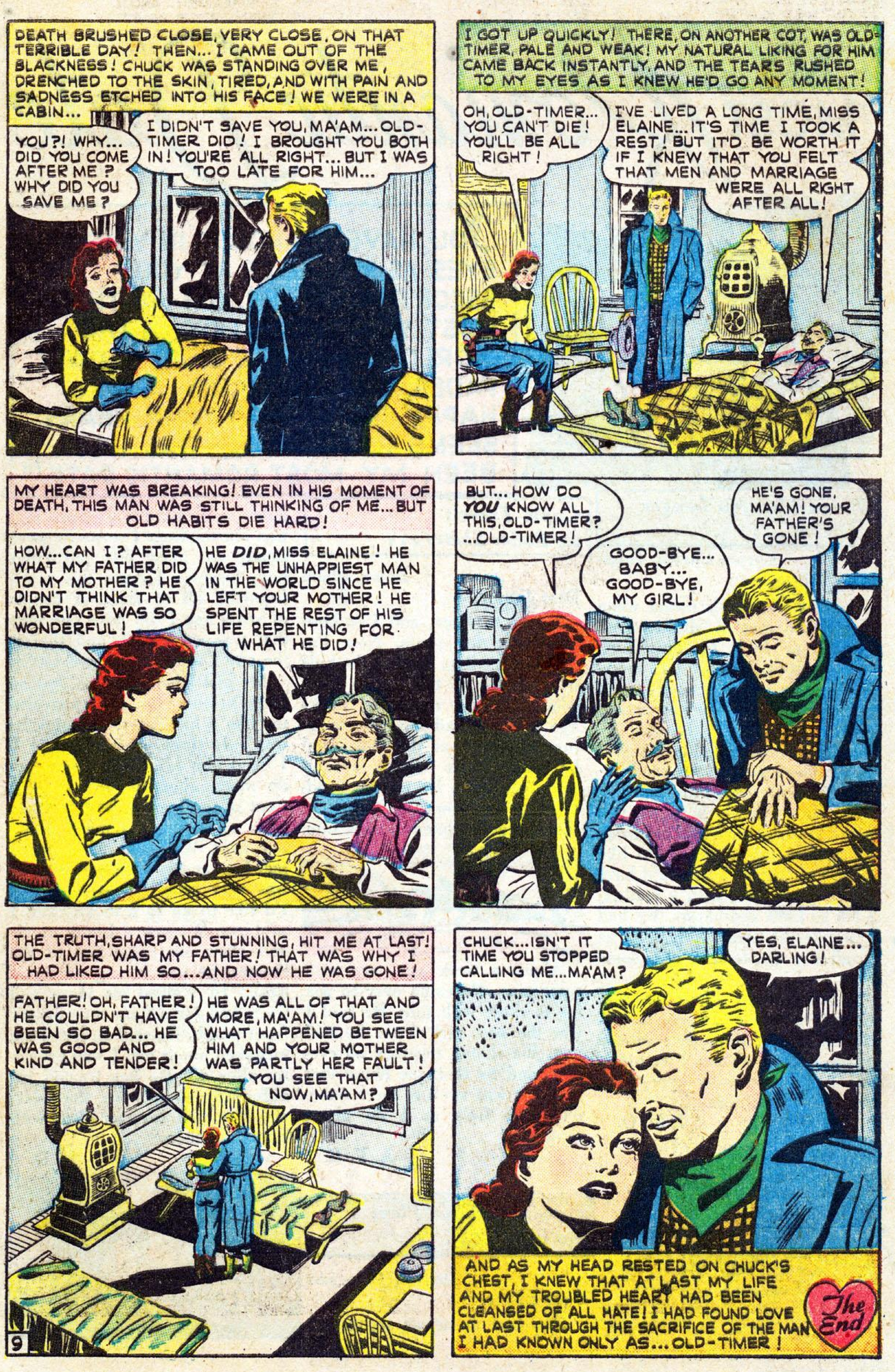

YOU CAN'T FIRE ANYBODY, MA'AM! I OWN THE RANCH NOW! WE HAD A BET... REMEMBER?
YES, I REMEMBER... AND I ALSO REMEMBER WHAT RATS MEN ARE! AS MOTHER SAID, YOU'RE ALL NO GOOD!
YOUR... MOTHER... SAID THAT?


MA'AM, LISTEN TO ME! I ONLY DID THIS TO JOLT YOU BACK TO YOUR SENSES! YOU'RE ALL MIXED UP ABOUT LOVE AND MEN! LOOK, I LOVE YOU, MA'AM... AND I WANT TO MARRY YOU! I DON'T WANT YOUR RANCH -- I WANT YOU!
SO... YOU THINK YOU CAN ***FORCE*** ME TO MARRY YOU BY OFFERING MY RANCH BACK IN RETURN, EH? WELL, YOU ***CAN'T***! ***GOOD-BYE!***

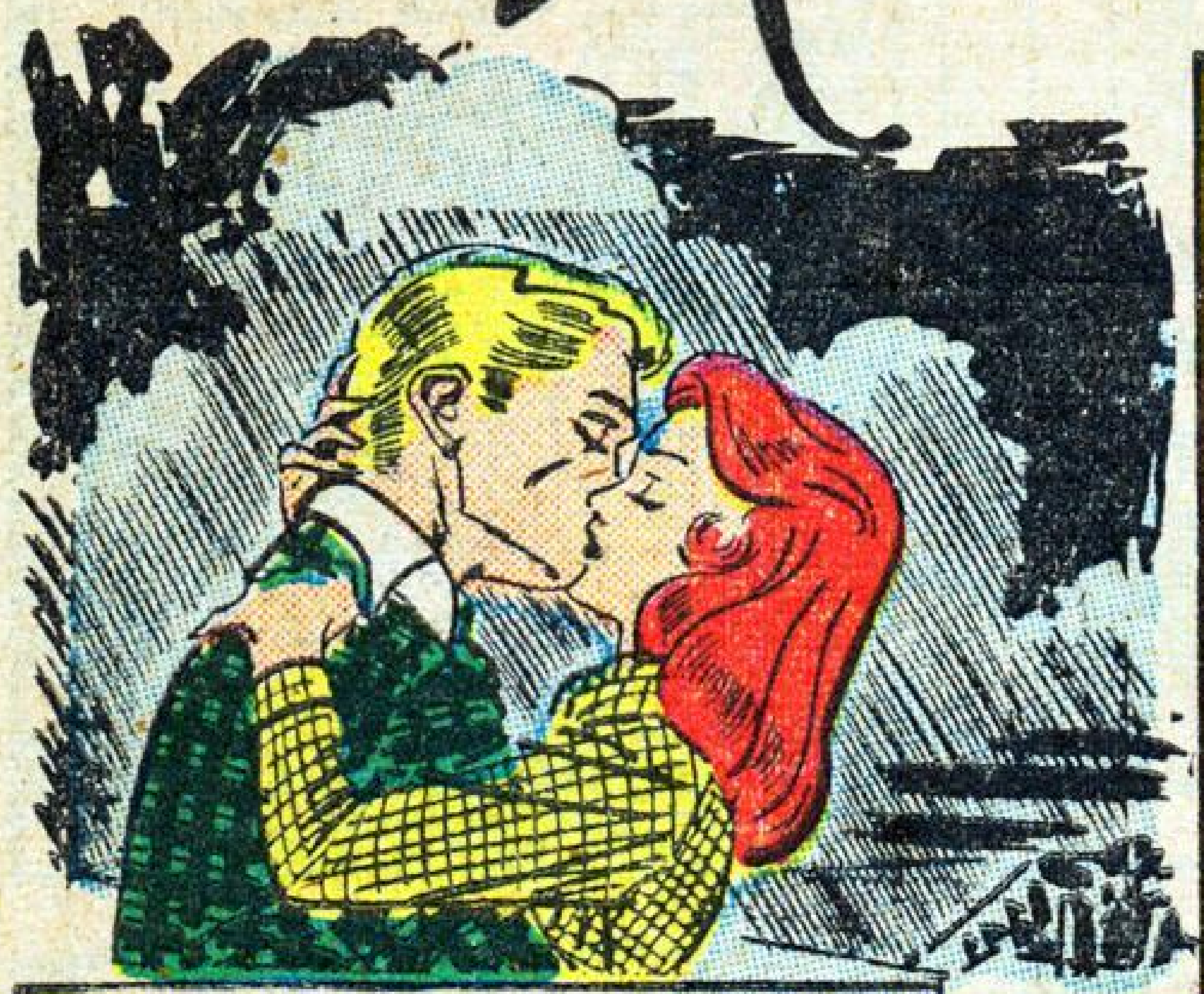

BROKEN-HEARTED, BITTER, I FELT THAT MY LIFE WAS AT AN END! I SPURRED BATTLE ON PAST THEM AND HEADED FOR THE HILLS! I WANTED TO BE ALONE TO THINK!
MISS ELAINE... WAIT! DON'T GO OFF ALONE! THERE'S A STORM COMING UP!
IT COULDN'T TREAT ME ANY WORSE THAN YOU TWO DID!... GIDDAP, BATTLE!


BATTLE STILL HAD A GREAT DEAL OF SPEED LEFT IN HIM AND IN A LITTLE WHILE WE WERE DEEP IN THE HILLS, AWAY FROM EVERYTHING... FROM MAN AND HIS TREACHERY... ALONE WITH A SUDDEN STORM THAT EXPLODED WITH PENT-UP RAGE LIKE THE ANGUISH IN MY SOUL!
STEADY, BATTLE! STEADY, BOY! WE'LL HEAD FOR THE CABIN IN THE COVE!


THE LAST I REMEMBER WAS BATTLE REARING UP IN TERROR AS A BOLT OF LIGHTNING FELL BEFORE HIM!
BATTLE! STEADY! ...OH!


DEATH BRUSHED CLOSE, VERY CLOSE, ON THAT TERRIBLE DAY! THEN... I CAME OUT OF THE BLACKNESS! CHUCK WAS STANDING OVER ME, DRENCHED TO THE SKIN, TIRED, AND WITH PAIN AND SADNESS ETCHED INTO HIS FACE! WE WERE IN A CABIN...
YOU?! WHY... DID YOU COME AFTER ME? WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?
I DIDN'T SAVE YOU, MA'AM... OLD-TIMER DID! I BROUGHT YOU BOTH IN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT... BUT I WAS TOO LATE FOR HIM...
I GOT UP QUICKLY! THERE, ON ANOTHER COT, WAS OLD-TIMER, PALE AND WEAK! MY NATURAL LIKING FOR HIM CAME BACK INSTANTLY, AND THE TEARS RUSHED TO MY EYES AS I KNEW HE'D GO ANY MOMENT!
OH, OLD-TIMER... YOU CAN'T DIE! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
I'VE LIVED A LONG TIME, MISS ELAINE... IT'S TIME I TOOK A REST! BUT IT'D BE WORTH IT IF I KNEW THAT YOU FELT THAT MEN AND MARRIAGE WERE ALL RIGHT AFTER ALL!
MY HEART WAS BREAKING! EVEN IN HIS MOMENT OF DEATH, THIS MAN WAS STILL THINKING OF ME... BUT OLD HABITS DIE HARD!
HOW... CAN I? AFTER WHAT MY FATHER DID TO MY MOTHER? HE DIDN'T THINK THAT MARRIAGE WAS SO WONDERFUL!
HE DID, MISS ELAINE! HE WAS THE UNHAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD SINCE HE LEFT YOUR MOTHER! HE SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE REPENTING FOR WHAT HE DID!
BUT... HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS, OLD-TIMER? ...OLD-TIMER!
GOOD-BYE... BABY... GOOD-BYE, MY GIRL!
HE'S GONE, MA'AM! YOUR FATHER'S GONE!
THE TRUTH, SHARP AND STUNNING, HIT ME AT LAST! OLD-TIMER WAS MY FATHER! THAT WAS WHY I HAD LIKED HIM SO... AND NOW HE WAS GONE!
FATHER! OH, FATHER! HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BAD... HE WAS GOOD AND KIND AND TENDER!
HE WAS ALL OF THAT AND MORE, MA'AM! YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND YOUR MOTHER WAS PARTLY HER FAULT! YOU SEE THAT NOW, MA'AM?
CHUCK... ISN'T IT TIME YOU STOPPED CALLING ME... MA'AM?
YES, ELAINE... DARLING!
AND AS MY HEAD RESTED ON CHUCK'S CHEST, I KNEW THAT AT LAST MY LIFE AND MY TROUBLED HEART HAD BEEN CLEANSED OF ALL HATE! I HAD FOUND LOVE AT LAST THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF THE MAN I HAD KNOWN ONLY AS... OLD-TIMER!
The End

MY MOST Romantic Date



YOU HAVE STARDUST IN YOUR EYES AS YOU GAZE AT YOUR ESCORT--AND SEE HIM AS THE MOST WONDERFUL BOY IN THE WORLD! WHEN THE NIGHT SLOWLY FADES, YOU FEEL WARM AND HAPPY INSIDE AND YOUR HEART SEEMS TO WHISPER, "THIS HAS BEEN MY MOST ROMANTIC DATE!"

Dream Man No Longer a Dream . . .

Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Editor,

I knew what girls meant when they talked about a "dream man" when I saw Jack. The only hitch was I wasn't the only gal carrying the torch—there were lots of them. He had just moved to our neighborhood, and because he was so good-looking, every girl in the block was trying her luck.

I mooned over him like the rest, but I didn't have enough nerve to chase him. One Saturday he stopped me to ask if I'd like to go swimming. You could have knocked me over with a feather, I felt so light and happy. We had a wonderful time! It seemed as if all my daydreams had come true.

We swam all afternoon and went to a movie that night, and had a perfect day. He's moved again so I don't see him often, but I still remember everything we did that Saturday.

I. M. O.

Cupid Travels on Roller Skates . . .

Boise, Idaho

Dear Editor,

I love to skate, and I've been practicing for years. Now I'm much better than most of the kids who skate at the roller rink where I go. A couple of weeks ago a boy I had never seen before appeared at the rink—and he could skate circles around everyone there. He was so good-looking and such an excellent skater that I wanted to meet him.

About a week ago, my wish came true. He came over to ask me to skate with him. He said I was the best girl skater he had met. We skated together all evening and he took me home that night. It was swell to meet someone who feels as I do about skating.

A. V. B.

Popular Girl Still Plays the Field . . .

Denver, Colorado

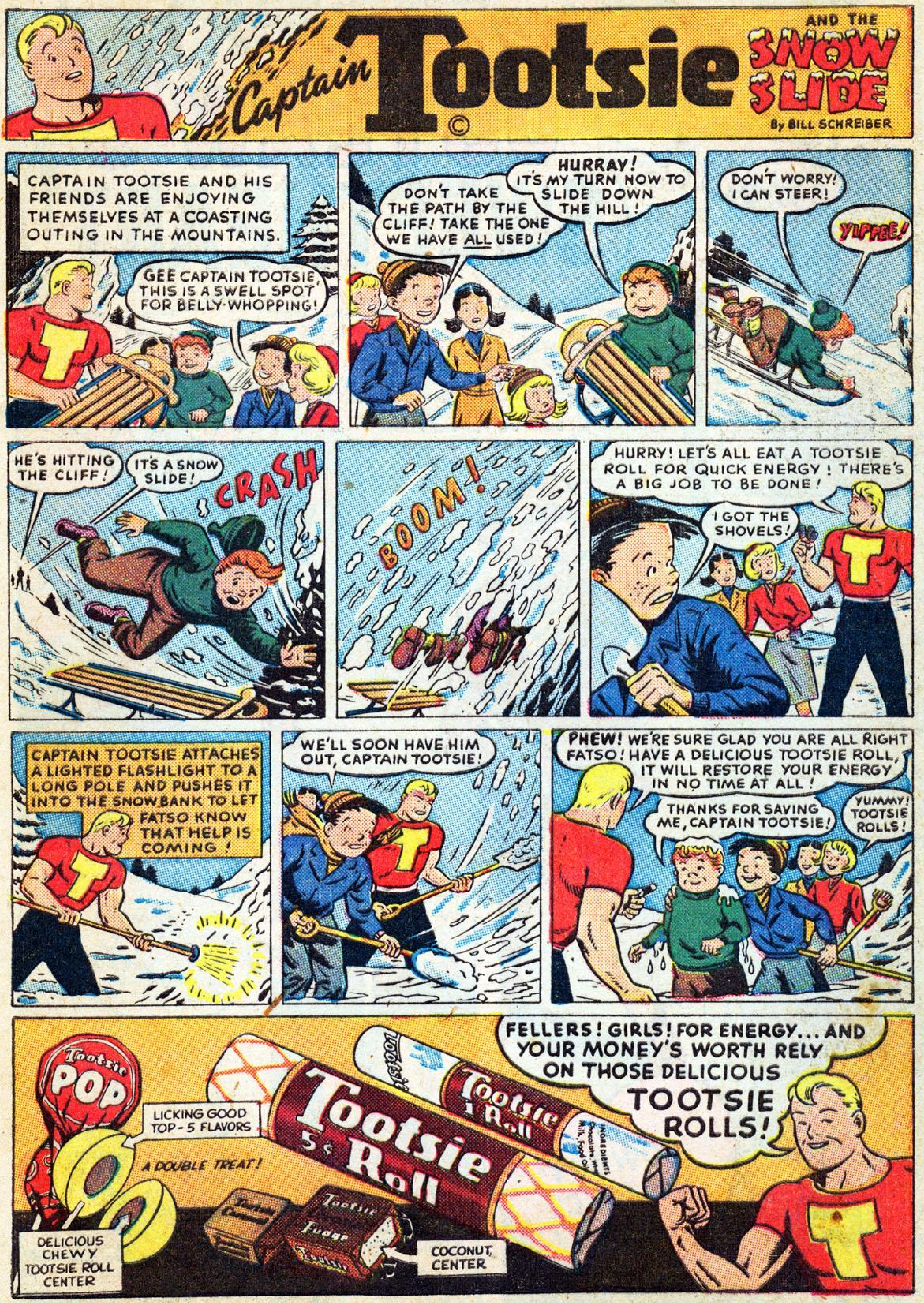
Dear Editor,

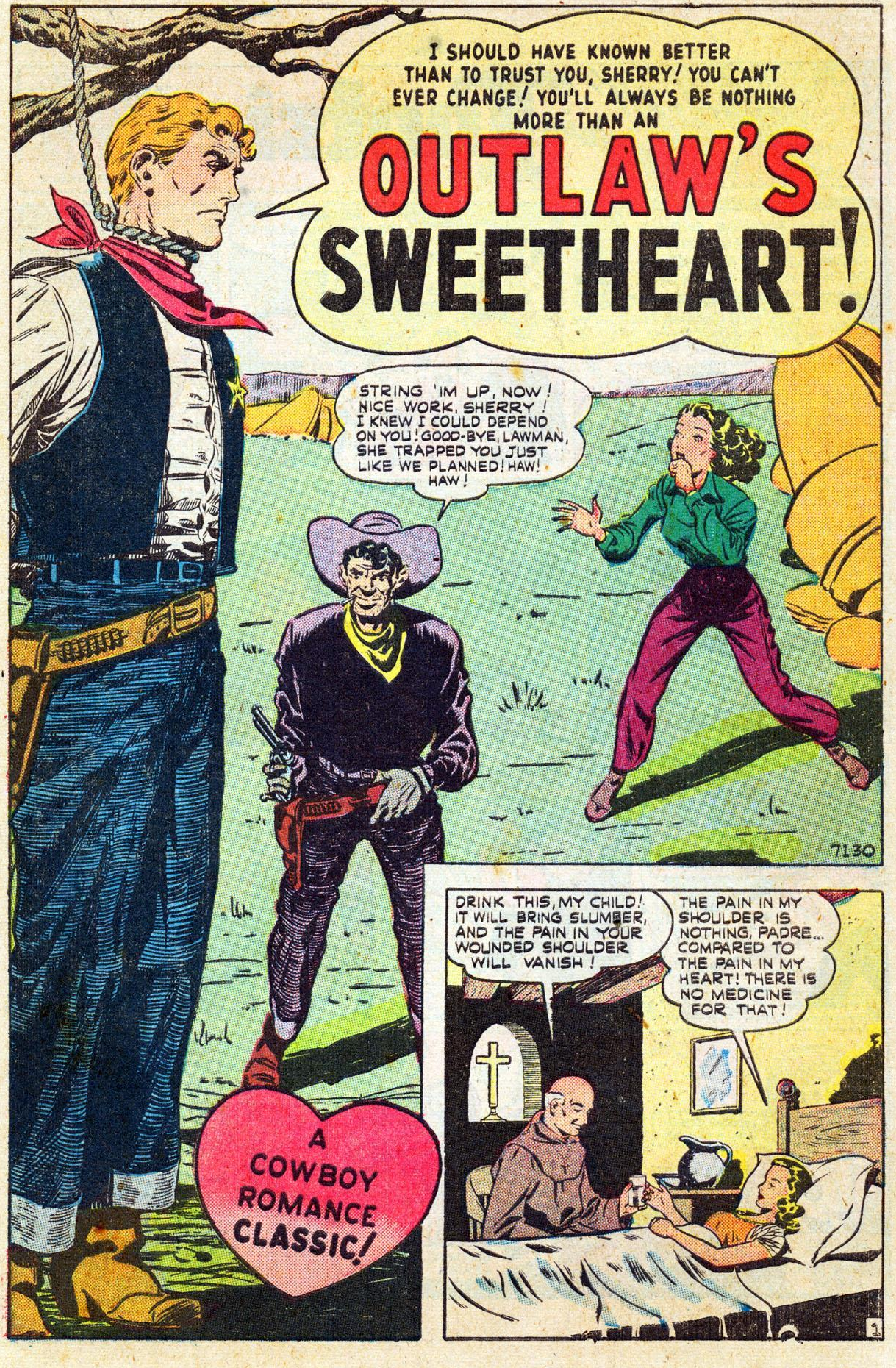
I've had a lot of wonderful dates, so it's hard to pick one that was outstanding. I've never gone steady or liked *one* particular boy, because I have too much fun with all of them. A couple of years ago I did have one date that was wonderful, and that is the one I want to tell you about.

My girl friend, Jeanne, has an older brother who always treated me like a kid sister, although he was only three years old than I. I liked him a lot, but I couldn't do much about it. Everytime I went to see Jeanne, he'd be there with some smart remark about our ages. Well, one afternoon I met him at the drugstore and he was very blue. He asked me if I'd like to go to a movie, and I said *yes.* We saw a funny movie and when we came out of the theater, he was in a good mood again. He walked me home and we talked for a long time on my front porch. He said he had been mistaken about me, I was grown-up after all. He has treated me differently ever since that day, and I've had several dates with him since then.

K. D.

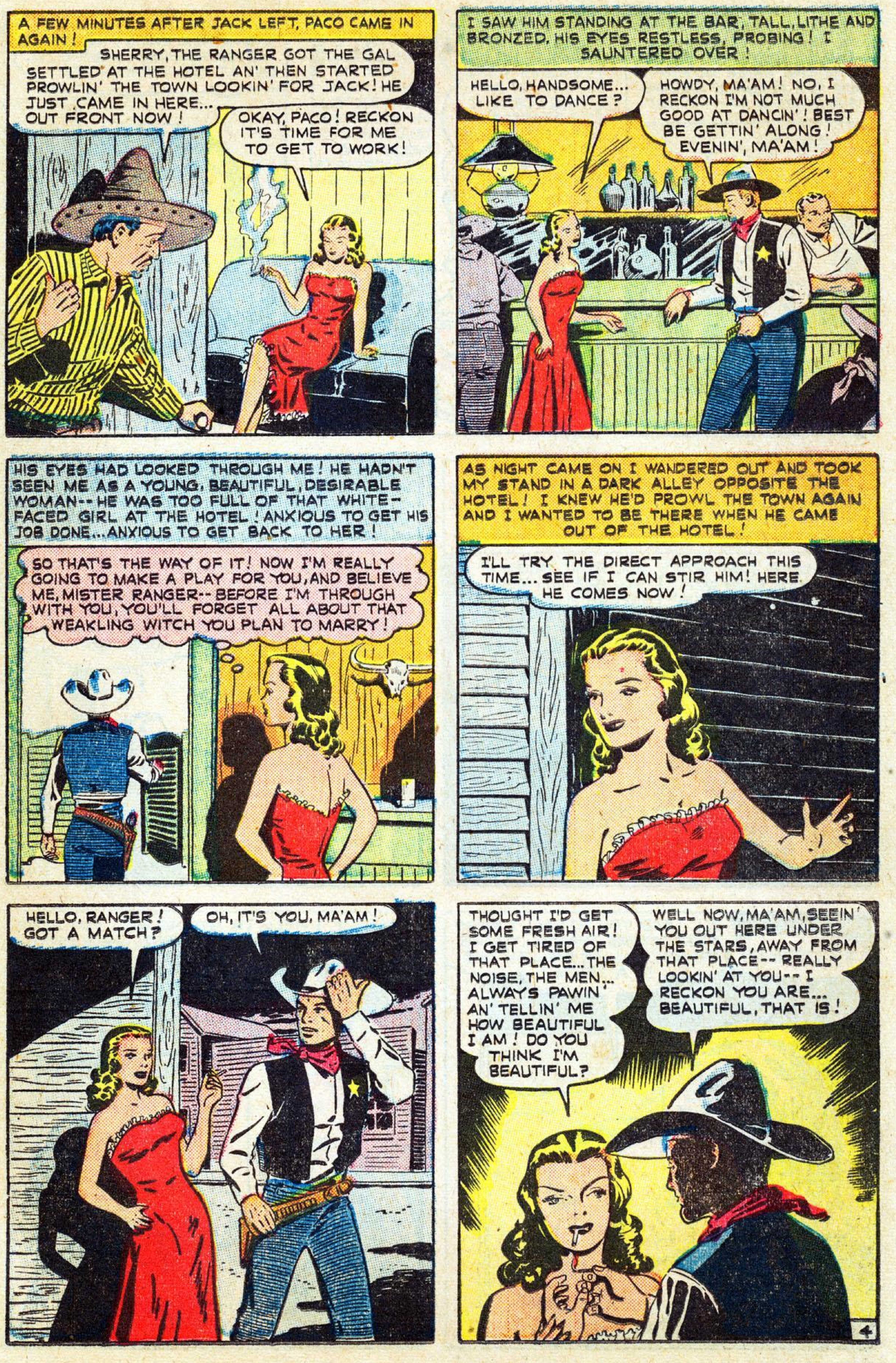
ADVERTISEMENT

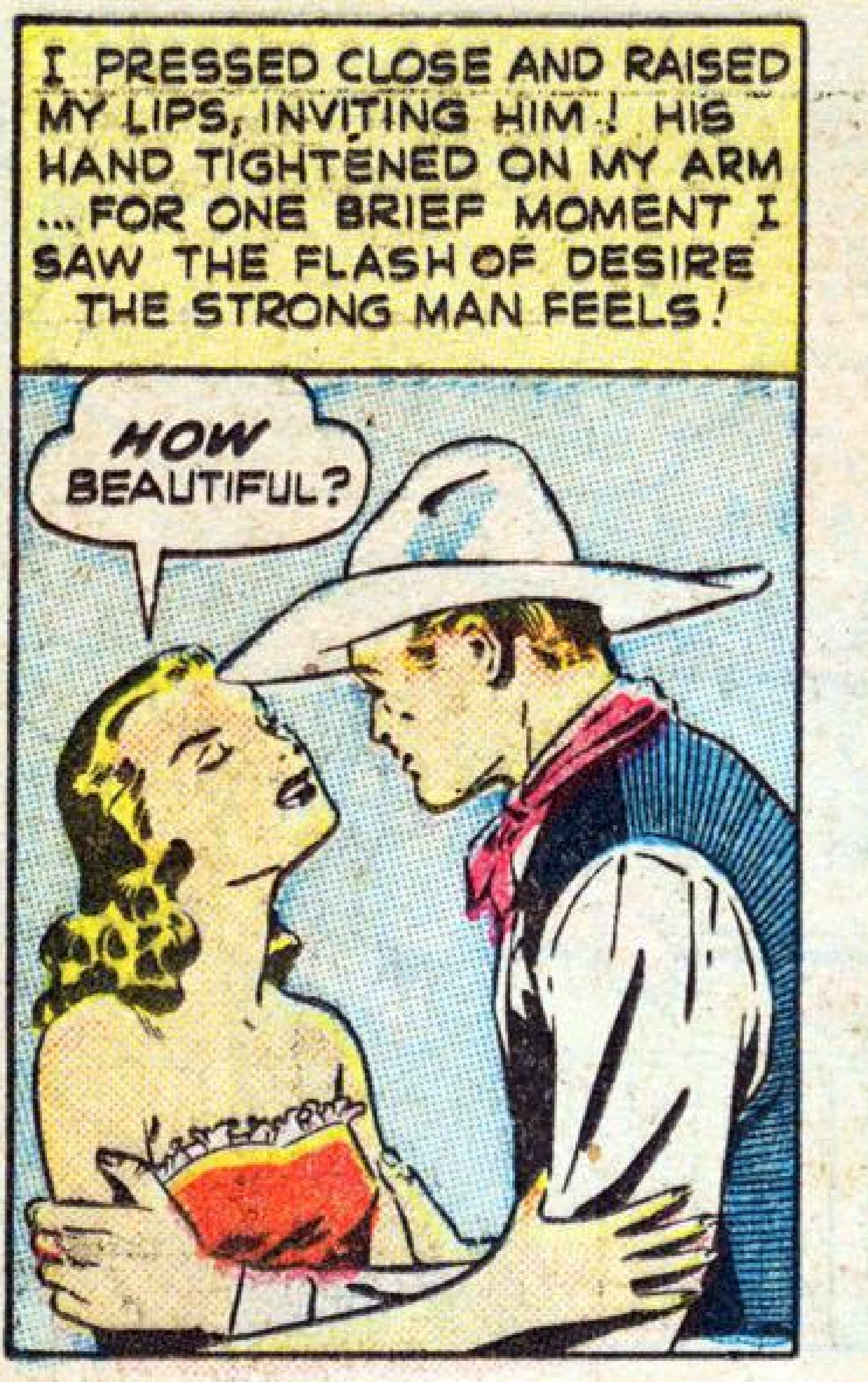

Captain Tootsie ©
AND THE SNOW SLIDE
By BILL SCHREIBER
CAPTAIN TOOTSIE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT A COASTING OUTING IN THE MOUNTAINS.
GEE CAPTAIN TOOTSIE THIS IS A SWELL SPOT FOR BELLY-WHOPPING!
DON'T TAKE THE PATH BY THE CLIFF! TAKE THE ONE WE HAVE ALL USED!
HURRAY! IT'S MY TURN NOW TO SLIDE DOWN THE HILL!
DON'T WORRY! I CAN STEER!
YIPPEE!
HE'S HITTING THE CLIFF!
IT'S A SNOW SLIDE!
CRASH
BOOM!
HURRY! LET'S ALL EAT A TOOTSIE ROLL FOR QUICK ENERGY! THERE'S A BIG JOB TO BE DONE!
I GOT THE SHOVELS!
CAPTAIN TOOTSIE ATTACHES A LIGHTED FLASHLIGHT TO A LONG POLE AND PUSHES IT INTO THE SNOWBANK TO LET FATSO KNOW THAT HELP IS COMING!
WE'LL SOON HAVE HIM OUT, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE!
PHEW! WE'RE SURE GLAD YOU ARE ALL RIGHT FATSO! HAVE A DELICIOUS TOOTSIE ROLL, IT WILL RESTORE YOUR ENERGY IN NO TIME AT ALL!
THANKS FOR SAVING ME, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE!
YUMMY! TOOTSIE ROLLS!
FELLERS! GIRLS! FOR ENERGY... AND YOUR MONEY'S WORTH RELY ON THOSE DELICIOUS TOOTSIE ROLLS!
Tootsie POP
LICKING GOOD TOP-5 FLAVORS
A DOUBLE TREAT!
DELICIOUS CHEWY TOOTSIE ROLL CENTER
Tootsie 5¢ Roll
Tootsie 1¢ Roll
Tootsie Fudge
COCONUT CENTER

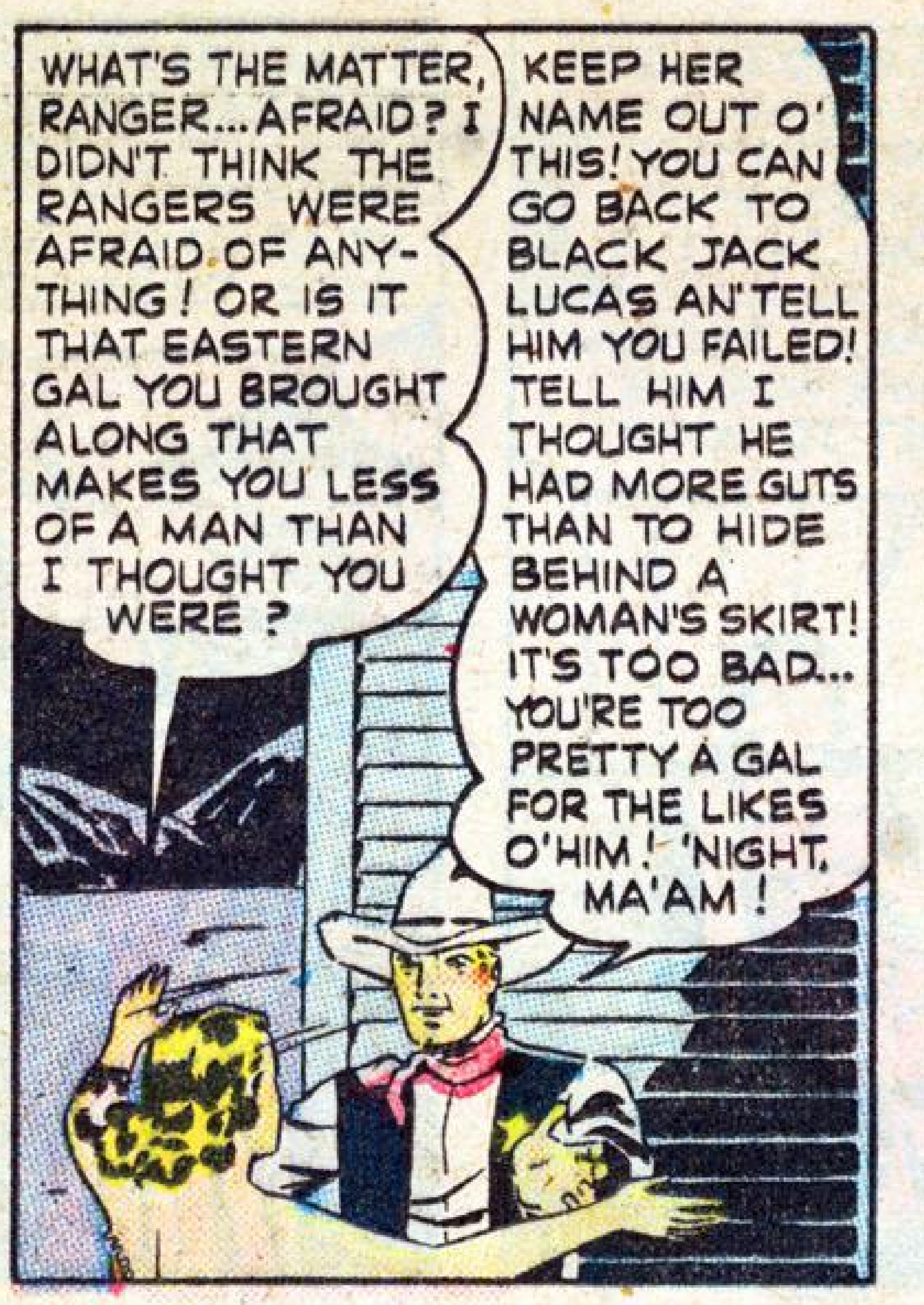

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST YOU, SHERRY! YOU CAN'T EVER CHANGE! YOU'LL ALWAYS BE NOTHING MORE THAN AN OUTLAW'S SWEETHEART!
STRING 'IM UP, NOW! NICE WORK, SHERRY! I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU! GOOD-BYE, LAWMAN, SHE TRAPPED YOU JUST LIKE WE PLANNED! HAW! HAW!
7130
A COWBOY ROMANCE CLASSIC!
DRINK THIS, MY CHILD! IT WILL BRING SLUMBER, AND THE PAIN IN YOUR WOUNDED SHOULDER WILL VANISH!
THE PAIN IN MY SHOULDER IS NOTHING, PADRE... COMPARED TO THE PAIN IN MY HEART! THERE IS NO MEDICINE FOR THAT!
2

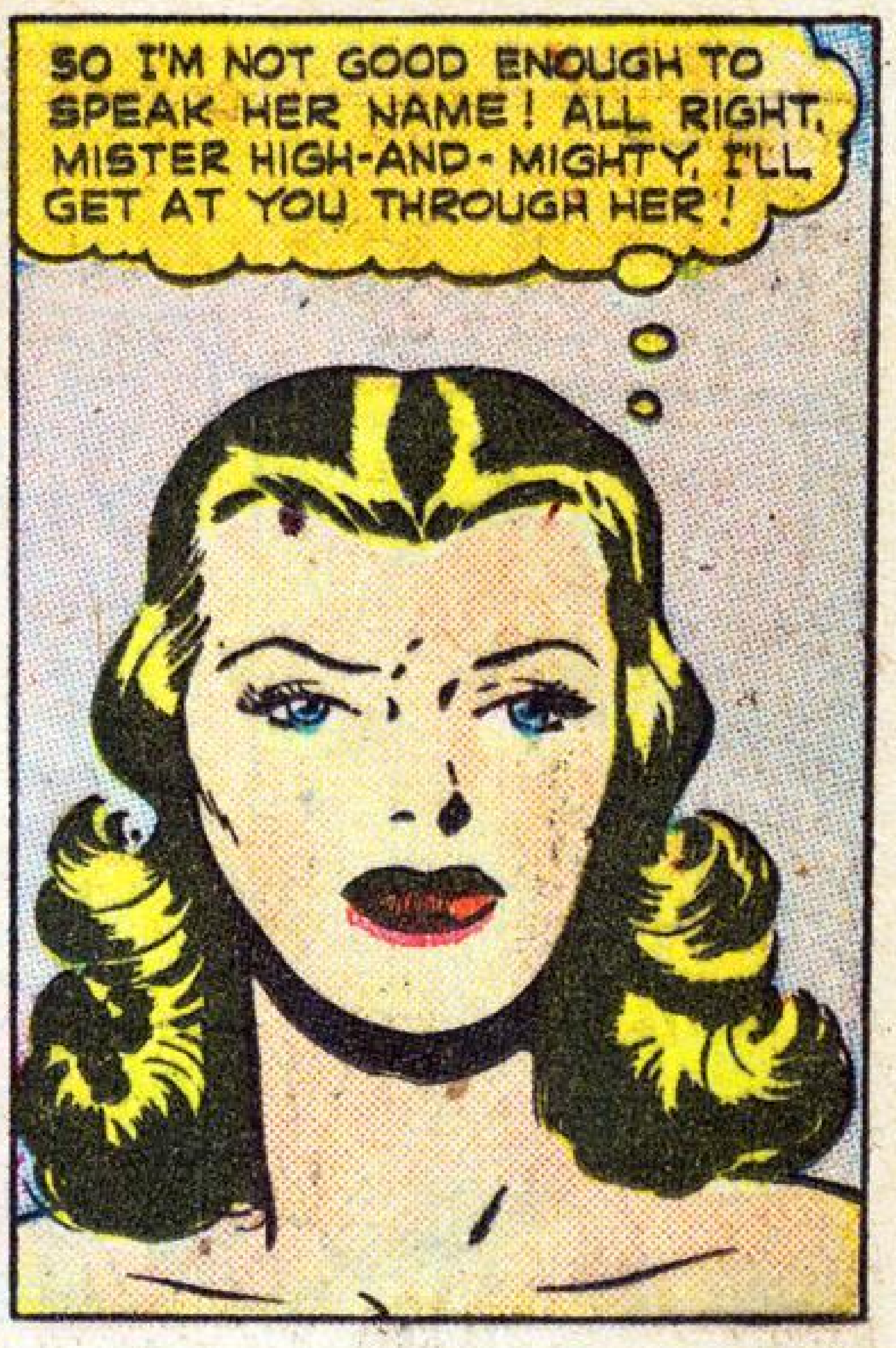
THERE ARE MANY MEDICINES FOR MANY AILMENTS! SOME TIMES TALK IS A MEDICINE... LIKE AN OPERATION THAT BRINGS THE INFECTED PART TO VIEW SO THAT WE MAY PURGE AND CURE IT!
YOU ARE A WISE AND GOODLY MAN, PADRE MIRANDA! PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT... PERHAPS IF I TALKED OF THIS THING, TOLD YOU MY STORY ...PERHAPS THAT WOULD BRING ME SOME MEASURE OF PEACE!
EVERYBODY ON THE BORDER HAS HEARD OF SHERRY TARRANT, HOSTESS AT THE SILVER QUEEN DANCE HALL IN EL QUANTRO! SHERRY TARRANT... THAT'S ME... THE GAL TAGGED, "PROPERTY OF BLACK JACK LUCAS, OUTLAW, KILLER!"... YEAH, I WAS BLACK JACK'S GIRL! WHY? WELL, I DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW... UNLESS IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS MORE OF A MAN THAN ANY HOMBRE I'D COME ACROSS BEFORE!
SO, HONEY, IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED, TO KEEP AWAY FROM MY FIRE, IF YOU DON'T WANNA GET BURNED!
C'MON, HONEY... LET'S WHIRL!
JACK! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GOT BACK FROM ACROSS THE BORDER!
BROUGHT BACK A BUNCH OF WET HORSES! WHAT'S NEW ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER, SHERRY, HONEY?
PLENTY! SOL TRADER AND SOME OF THE OTHER MERCHANTS HAVE SENT FOR THE RANGERS TO GET YOU AND YOUR MEN... DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AROUND EL QUANTRO ANY MORE... WANT THEIR KIDS AND WIMMIN FOLKS TO BE SAFE!
I'LL FIX THOSE MEDDLIN' COYOTES SO'S THEY CALL NO RANGERS AGAIN! I'LL GIVE 'EM A DOSE OF LEAD POISONIN' THAT'LL BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THESE HIGH-MINDED FOLKS HEREABOUTS!
NO, JACK--YOU JUST CAN'T SHOOT DOWN UNARMED HONEST PEOPLE!
LET GO, GAL--I CAN'T HAVE NO RANGERS COMIN' 'ROUND HERE! I'M A WANTED MAN, AN'...
TOO LATE, JACK--LOOK WHO JUST GOT OFF THE STAGE! LANCE CABOT, THE PRIDE OF THE TEXAS RANGERS... A REAL TOUGH HOMBRE...
ERLAND STAGE CO
SILVER DOLL
SALOON

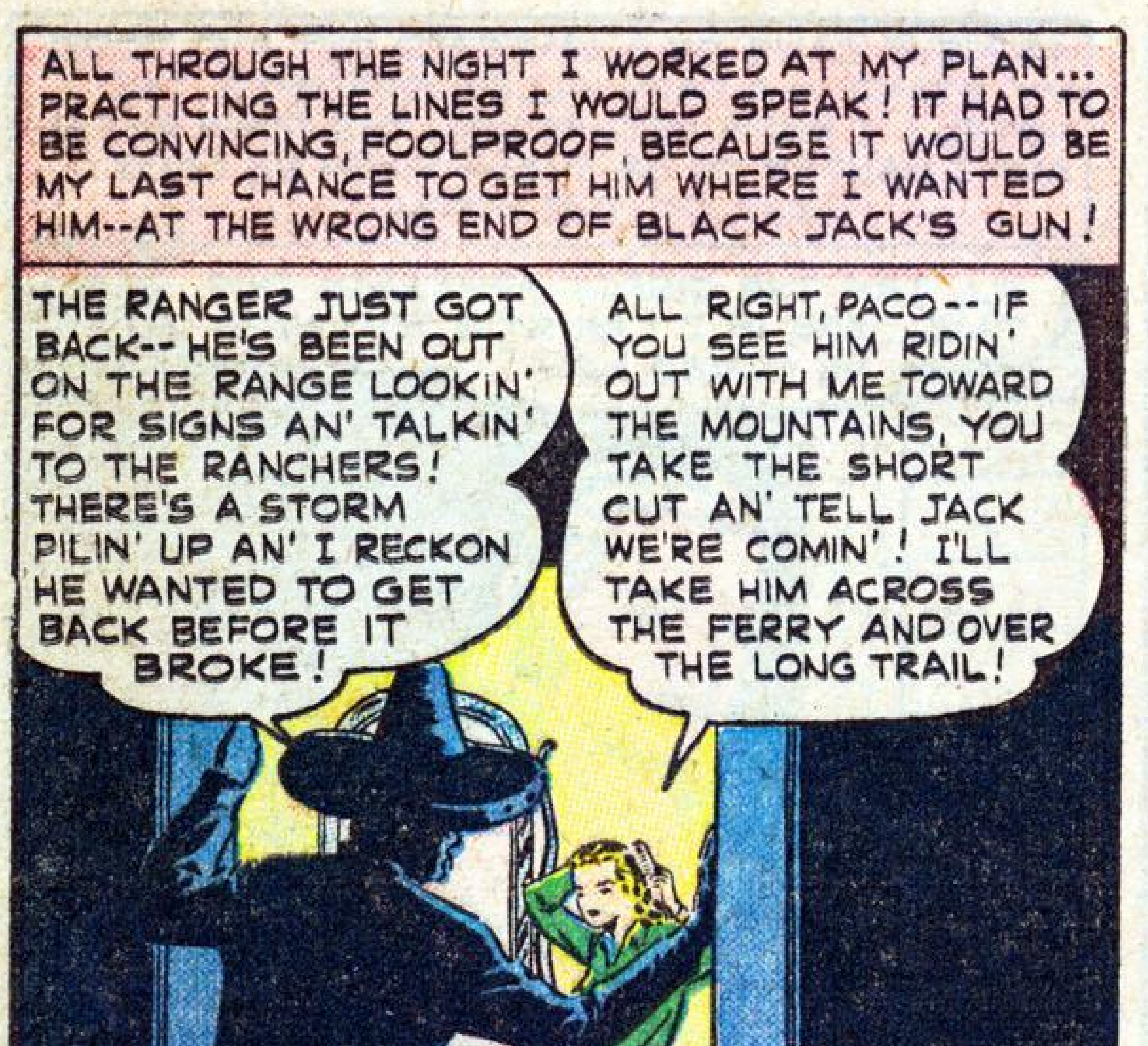
LANCE CABOT! OF ALL THE RANGERS THEY HAD TO SEND HIM! LISTEN, PACO, HE DON'T KNOW YOU... CIRCULATE AROUND AND FIND OUT ALL YOU CAN... FIND OUT WHO THAT GAL IS! I'LL BE IN THE BACK ROOM-- I'M LAYIN' LOW UNTIL I FIGGER A WAY TO GET AT THAT FIRE-EATER!
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD EVER SEEN BLACK JACK BACK AWAY FROM ANY MAN! IT SURPRISED ME AND SOMEHOW MADE ME FEEL A LITTLE UNEASY!
I DON'T GET IT, JACK-- YOU ACT AS THOUGH THIS HOMBRE WAS A WHOLE REGIMENT OF RANGERS INSTEAD OF JUST ONE MAN!
LANCE CABOT IS AS GOOD AS A WHOLE COMPANY! HE'S FASTER THAN ANY GUNMAN IN THE WEST... AFRAID OF NOTHING... NO NERVES! HE'S THE ONLY MAN ON THE BORDER I DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST! I GOTTA MAKE A PLAN-- A PLAN TO GET RID OF CABOT!
JACK SAT GNAWING HIS NAILS, JUMPY, NERVOUS, AS WE WAITED FOR PACO TO COME BACK...
IT'S ABOUT TIME YUH SHOWED UP! COME ON... SPILL IT!
TAKE IT EASY, JACK... I FOUND OUT PLENTY FROM OL' REINS, THE STAGE COACH DRIVER. CABOT WAS SENT HERE TO GET YOU! THE GIRL WITH HIM IS CYNTHIA PORLEY, HIS FIANCÉE... SOON AS HE FINISHES THIS JOB--GETTING YOU-- HE'S QUITTIN' THE RANGERS AN' GETTIN' HITCHED TO THAT FILLY AN' SETTLIN' DOWN! THAT'S THE STORY, BLACK JACK!
ALL RIGHT, PACO-- GET OUT! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR ANYTHING ELSE!
KENO, JACK!
PACO LEFT AND I SAT SILENTLY, WATCHING JACK PROWL BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE ROOM LIKE A RESTLESS BEAR UNTIL I COULD KEEP QUIET NO LONGER!
WELL, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, JACK? MAYBE I COULD HELP?
WHAT COULD YOU DO? SHUT UP, I'M THINKIN'! HEY, WAIT... MAYBE YOU CAN HELP! YEAH... THAT'S IT!
SURE... YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL YOU COULD TURN ANY MAN'S HEAD! NOW LISTEN, HERE'S THE SCHEME! I'M GOIN' TO MY HIDEOUT IN THE MOUNTAINS... OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER! YOU GET TO THE RANGER--YOU KNOW HOW, A WOMAN LIKE YOU ALWAYS DOES-- GET HIM TO RIDE OUT TOWARD THE HIDEOUT WITH YOU! ONCE YOU GET HIM THERE, ME AN' THE BOYS'LL TAKE CARE O' HIM!
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE REFUSED... A LADY WOULD HAVE! BUT THEN... I'M NOT A LADY, AND I HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP ON A WILD FRONTIER, AND I GUESS SOME OF THAT UNTAMED WILDNESS HAD SEEPED IN BELOW THE SKIN TO BECOME PART OF ME!
KENO, JACK! I'LL HAVE THAT BIG BOLD HERO EATIN' OUT OF MY HAND IN NO TIME!
THAT'S MY GAL! I'M DRIFTIN' NOW BEFORE THESE MEALY-MOUTHED TOWNSMEN TELL HIM I'M HERE!
3

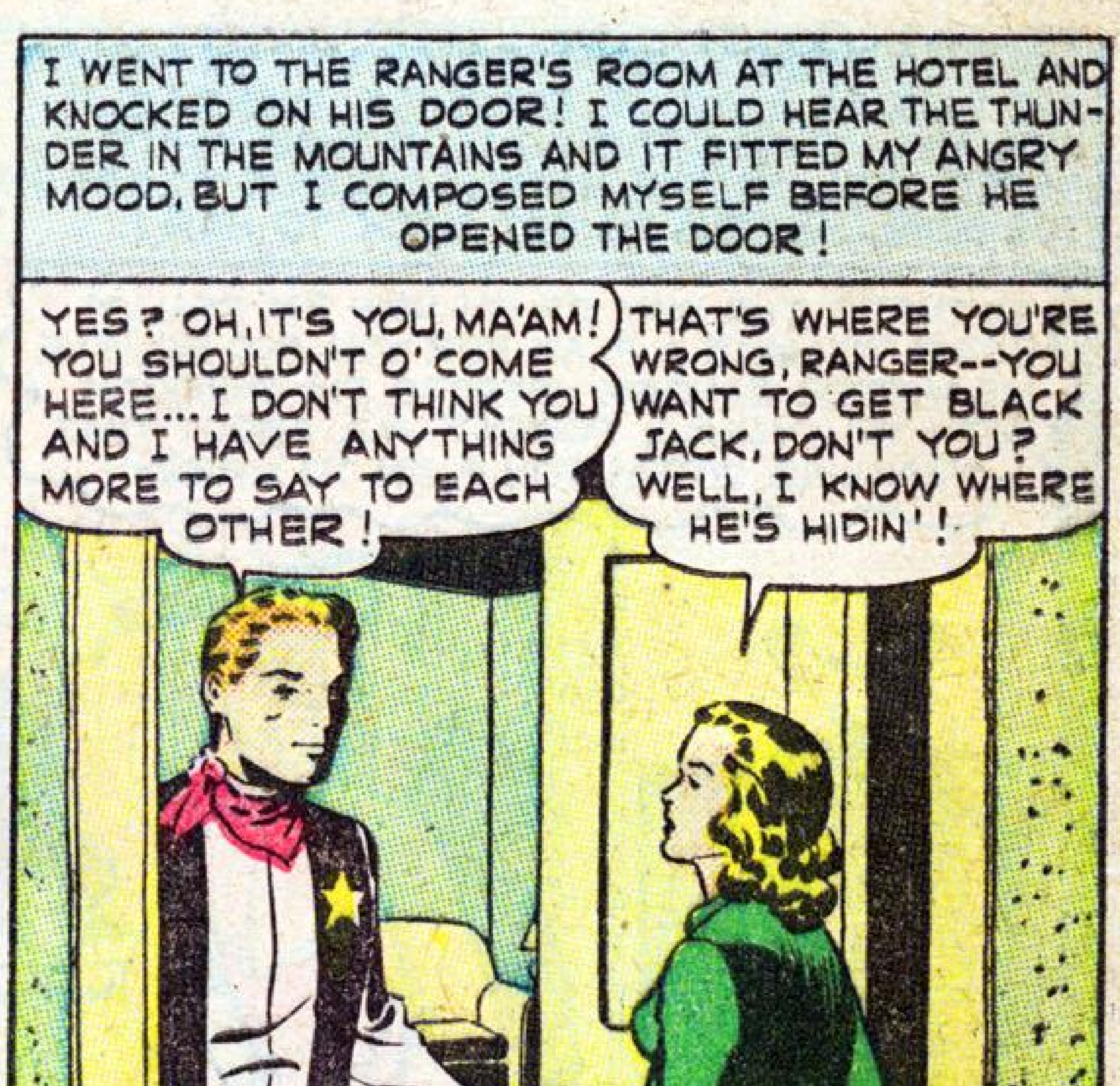

A FEW MINUTES AFTER JACK LEFT, PACO CAME IN AGAIN!
SHERRY, THE RANGER GOT THE GAL SETTLED AT THE HOTEL AN' THEN STARTED PROWLIN' THE TOWN LOOKIN' FOR JACK! HE JUST CAME IN HERE... OUT FRONT NOW!
OKAY, PACO! RECKON IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET TO WORK!
I SAW HIM STANDING AT THE BAR, TALL, LITHE AND BRONZED, HIS EYES RESTLESS, PROBING! I SAUNTERED OVER!
HELLO, HANDSOME... LIKE TO DANCE?
HOWDY, MA'AM! NO, I RECKON I'M NOT MUCH GOOD AT DANCIN'! BEST BE GETTIN' ALONG! EVENIN', MA'AM!
HIS EYES HAD LOOKED THROUGH ME! HE HADN'T SEEN ME AS A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL, DESIRABLE WOMAN-- HE WAS TOO FULL OF THAT WHITE-FACED GIRL AT THE HOTEL! ANXIOUS TO GET HIS JOB DONE...ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO HER!
SO THAT'S THE WAY OF IT! NOW I'M REALLY GOING TO MAKE A PLAY FOR YOU, AND BELIEVE ME, MISTER RANGER-- BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT WEAKLING WITCH YOU PLAN TO MARRY!
AS NIGHT CAME ON I WANDERED OUT AND TOOK MY STAND IN A DARK ALLEY OPPOSITE THE HOTEL! I KNEW HE'D PROWL THE TOWN AGAIN AND I WANTED TO BE THERE WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE HOTEL!
I'LL TRY THE DIRECT APPROACH THIS TIME... SEE IF I CAN STIR HIM! HERE HE COMES NOW!
HELLO, RANGER! GOT A MATCH?
OH, IT'S YOU, MA'AM!
THOUGHT I'D GET SOME FRESH AIR! I GET TIRED OF THAT PLACE... THE NOISE, THE MEN... ALWAYS PAWIN' AN' TELLIN' ME HOW BEAUTIFUL I AM! DO YOU THINK I'M BEAUTIFUL?
WELL NOW, MA'AM, SEEIN' YOU OUT HERE UNDER THE STARS, AWAY FROM THAT PLACE-- REALLY LOOKIN' AT YOU-- I RECKON YOU ARE... BEAUTIFUL, THAT IS!

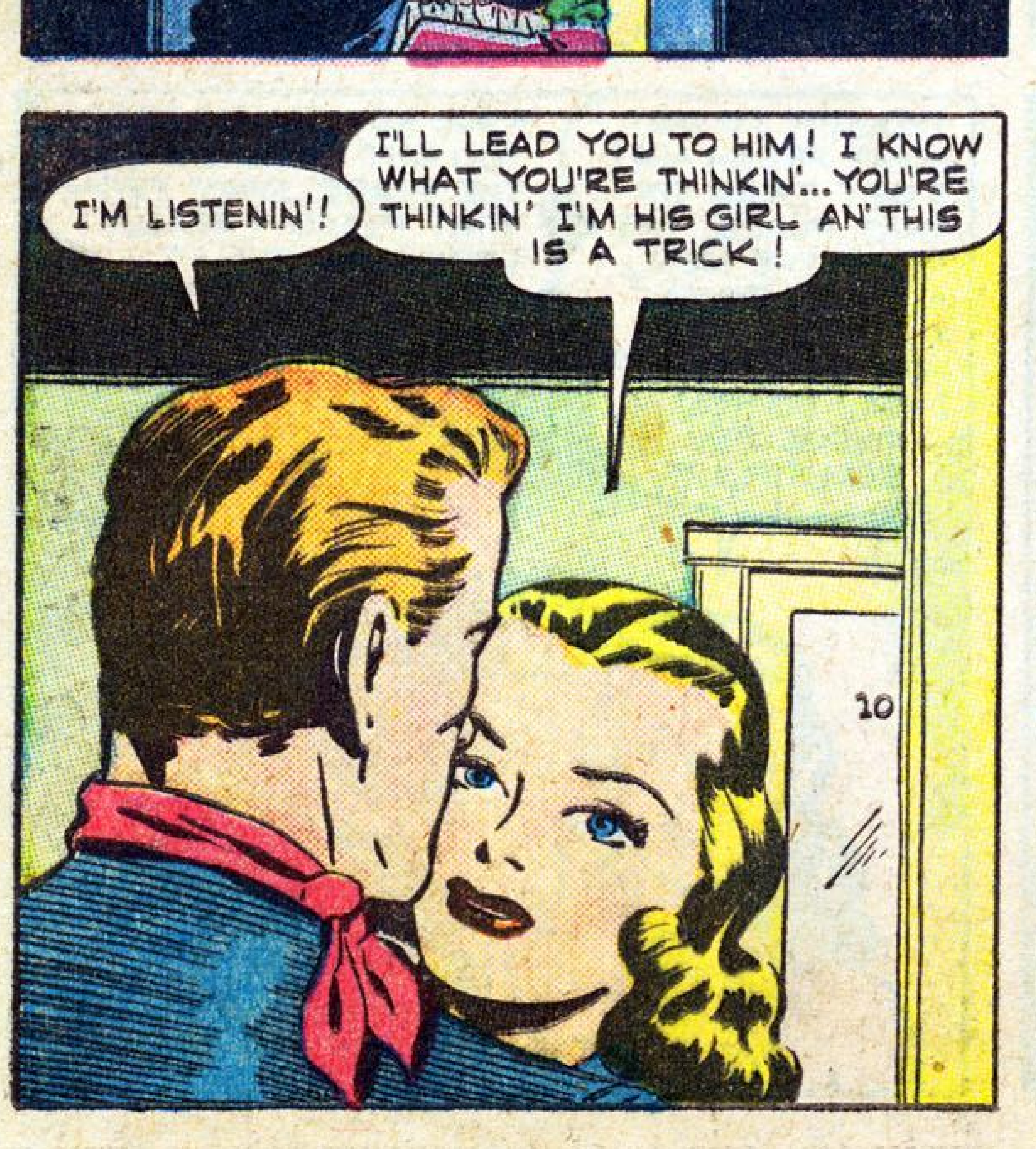

I PRESSED CLOSE AND RAISED MY LIPS, INVITING HIM! HIS HAND TIGHTENED ON MY ARM ...FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT I SAW THE FLASH OF DESIRE THE STRONG MAN FEELS!
HOW BEAUTIFUL?

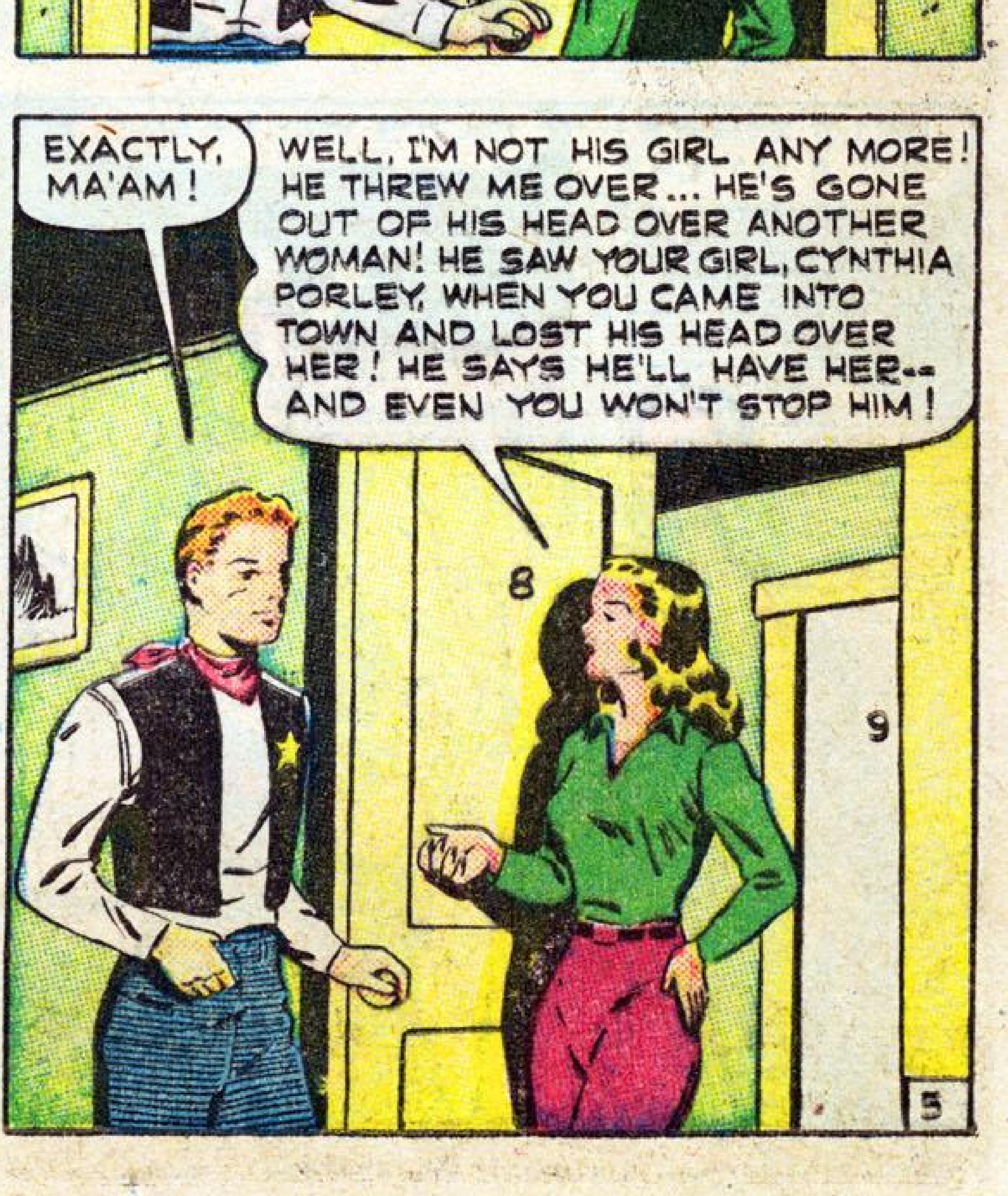

WHAT'S THE MATTER, RANGER...AFRAID? I DIDN'T THINK THE RANGERS WERE AFRAID OF ANYTHING! OR IS IT THAT EASTERN GAL YOU BROUGHT ALONG THAT MAKES YOU LESS OF A MAN THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE?
KEEP HER NAME OUT O' THIS! YOU CAN GO BACK TO BLACK JACK LUCAS AN' TELL HIM YOU FAILED! TELL HIM I THOUGHT HE HAD MORE GUTS THAN TO HIDE BEHIND A WOMAN'S SKIRT! IT'S TOO BAD... YOU'RE TOO PRETTY A GAL FOR THE LIKES O'HIM! 'NIGHT, MA'AM!

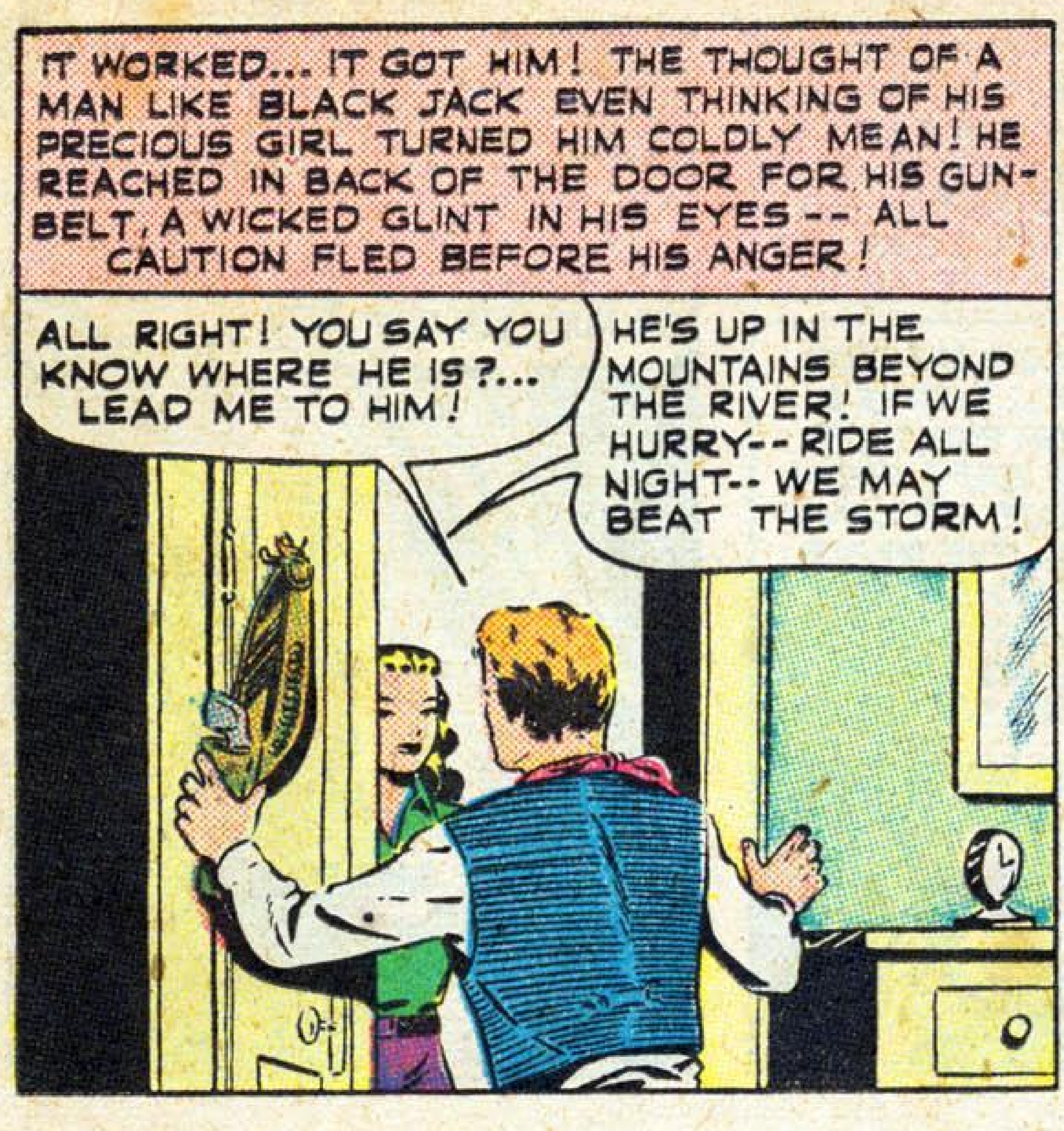

SO I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO SPEAK HER NAME! ALL RIGHT, MISTER HIGH-AND-MIGHTY, I'LL GET AT YOU THROUGH HER!

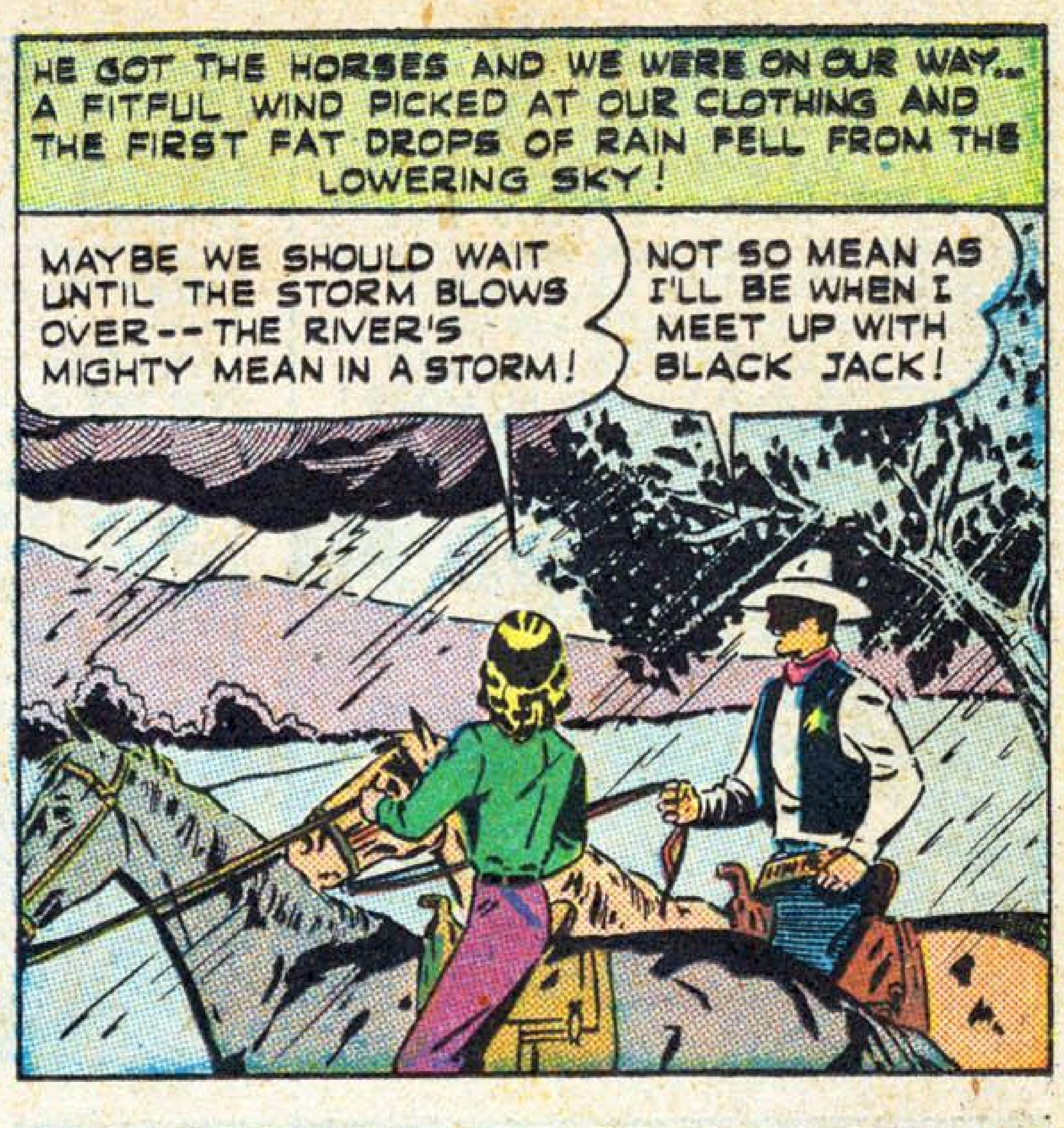

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT I WORKED AT MY PLAN... PRACTICING THE LINES I WOULD SPEAK! IT HAD TO BE CONVINCING, FOOLPROOF, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE MY LAST CHANCE TO GET HIM WHERE I WANTED HIM--AT THE WRONG END OF BLACK JACK'S GUN!
THE RANGER JUST GOT BACK-- HE'S BEEN OUT ON THE RANGE LOOKIN' FOR SIGNS AN' TALKIN' TO THE RANCHERS! THERE'S A STORM PILIN' UP AN' I RECKON HE WANTED TO GET BACK BEFORE IT BROKE!
ALL RIGHT, PACO-- IF YOU SEE HIM RIDIN' OUT WITH ME TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS, YOU TAKE THE SHORT CUT AN' TELL JACK WE'RE COMIN'! I'LL TAKE HIM ACROSS THE FERRY AND OVER THE LONG TRAIL!

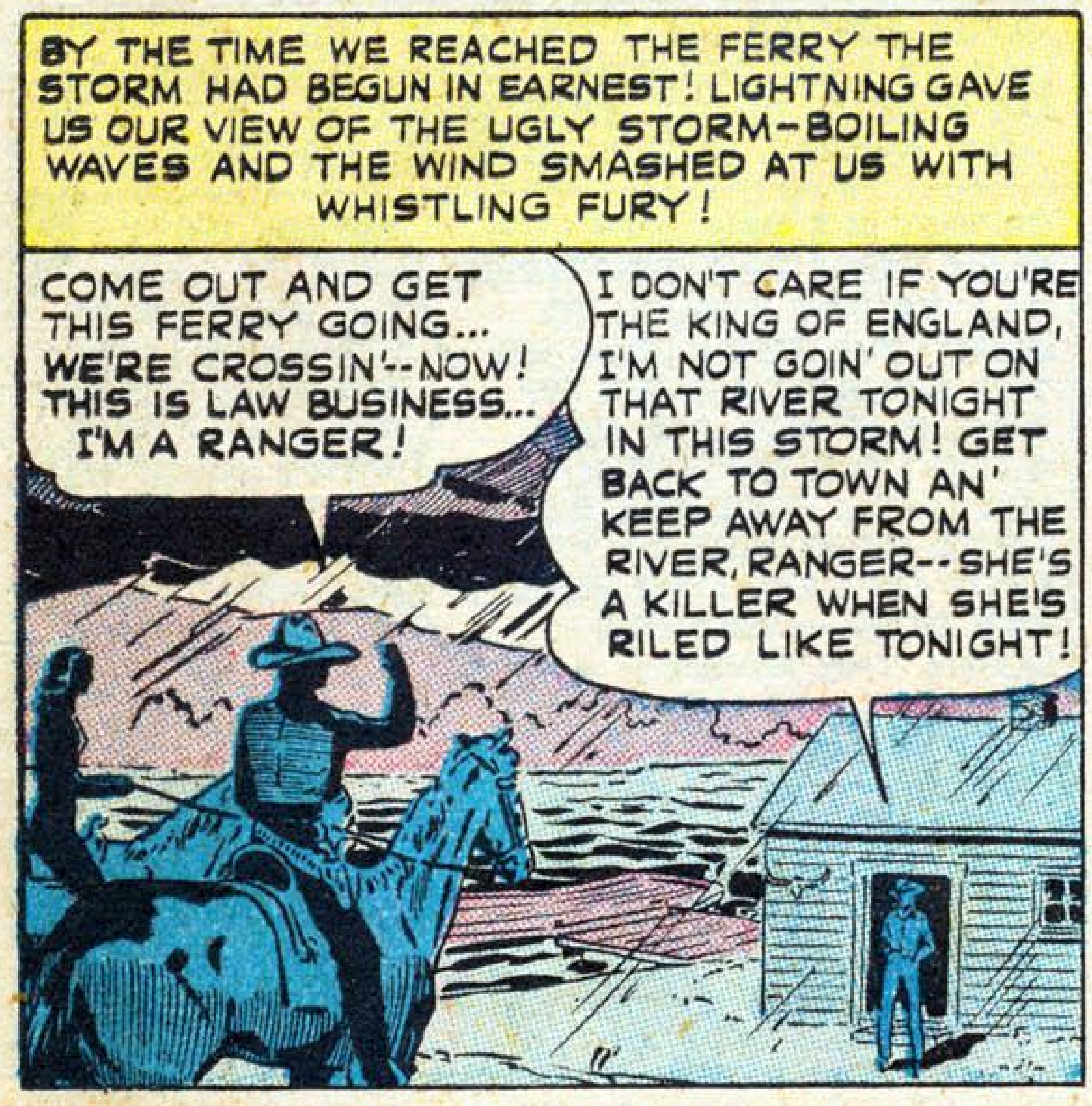

I WENT TO THE RANGER'S ROOM AT THE HOTEL AND KNOCKED ON HIS DOOR! I COULD HEAR THE THUNDER IN THE MOUNTAINS AND IT FITTED MY ANGRY MOOD, BUT I COMPOSED MYSELF BEFORE HE OPENED THE DOOR!
YES? OH, IT'S YOU, MA'AM! YOU SHOULDN'T O' COME HERE... I DON'T THINK YOU AND I HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY TO EACH OTHER!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, RANGER--YOU WANT TO GET BLACK JACK, DON'T YOU? WELL, I KNOW WHERE HE'S HIDIN'!

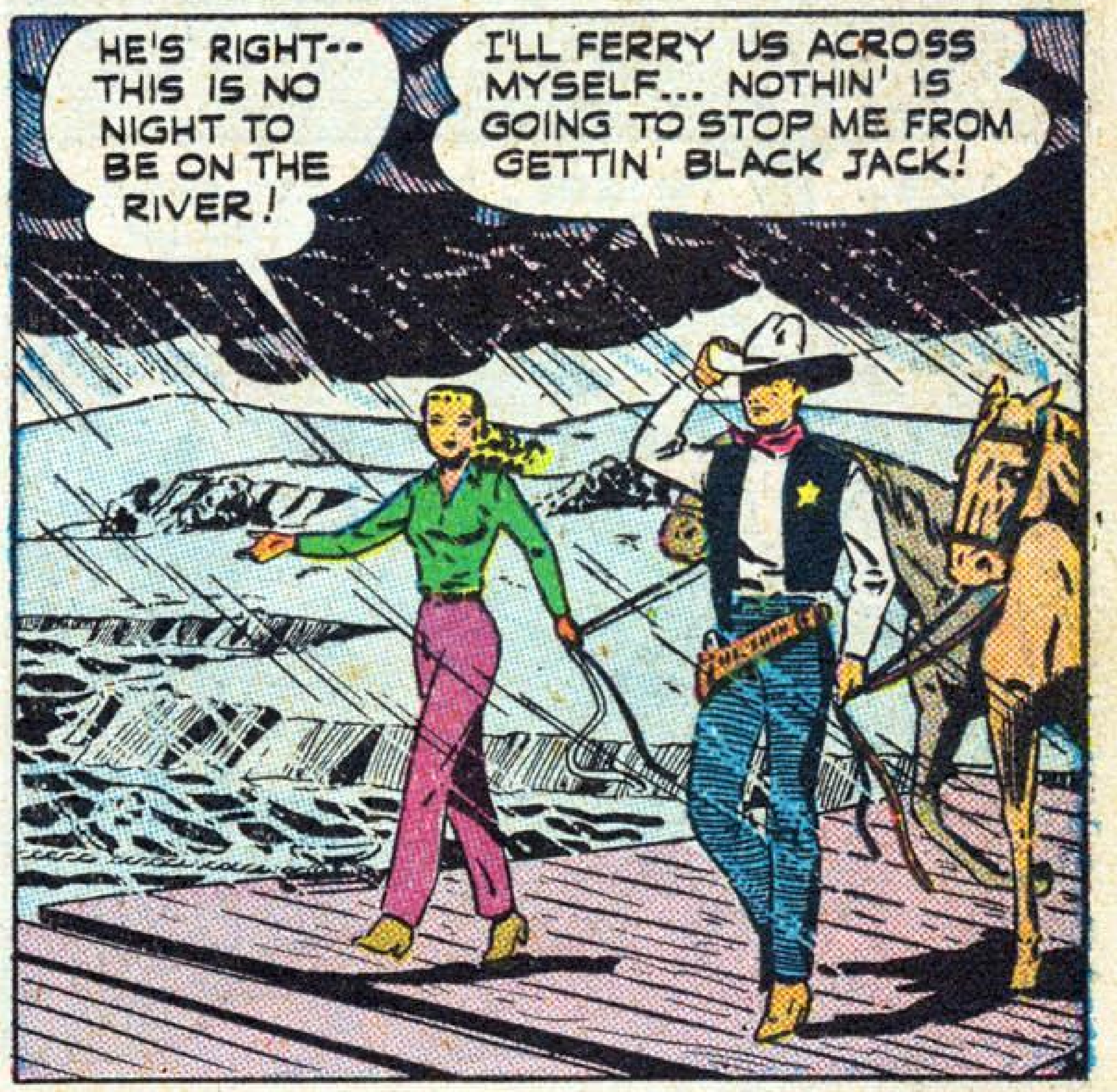

I'M LISTENIN'!
I'LL LEAD YOU TO HIM! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN'...YOU'RE THINKIN' I'M HIS GIRL AN' THIS IS A TRICK!
10

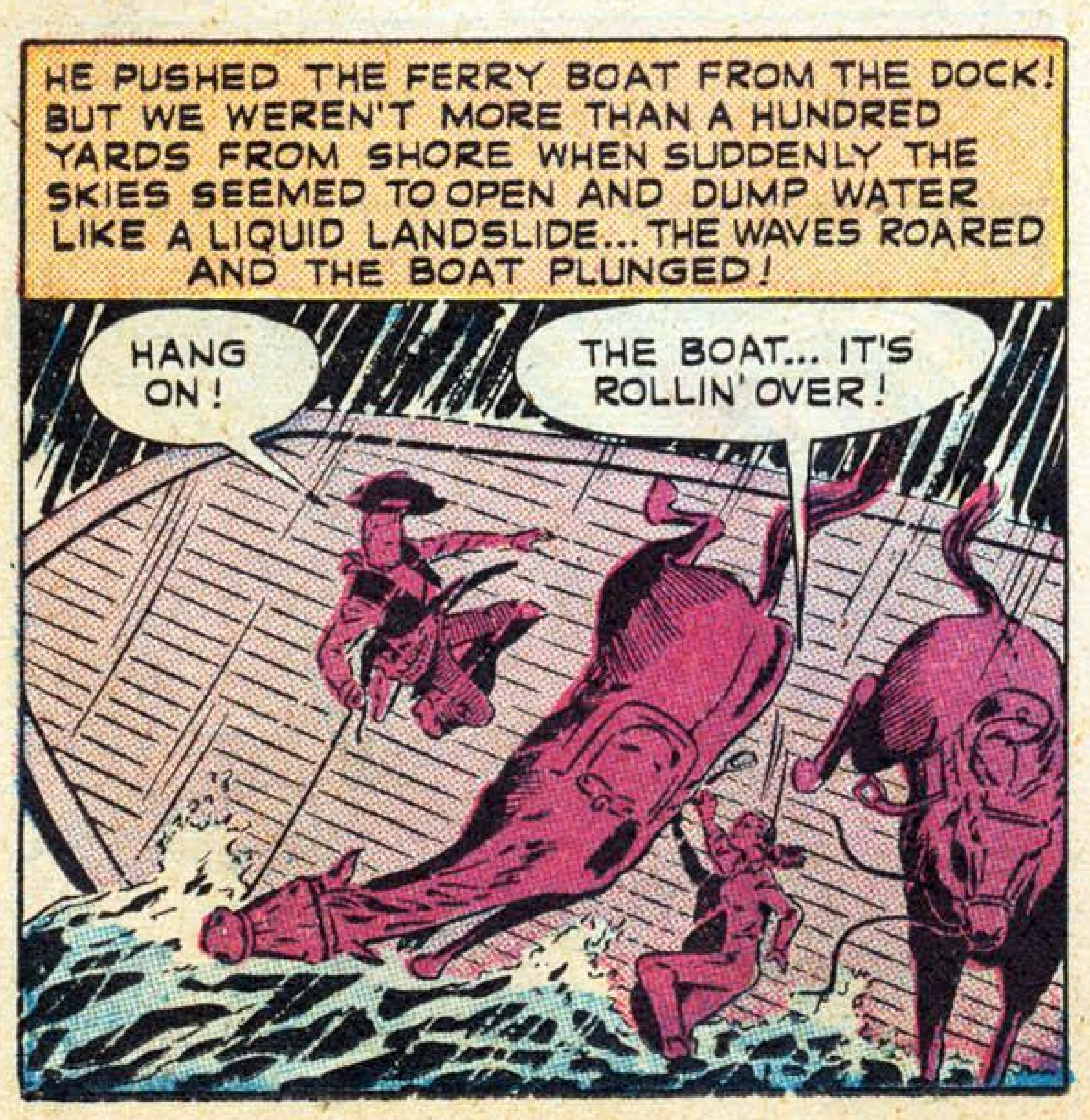

EXACTLY, MA'AM!
WELL, I'M NOT HIS GIRL ANY MORE! HE THREW ME OVER... HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS HEAD OVER ANOTHER WOMAN! HE SAW YOUR GIRL, CYNTHIA PORLEY, WHEN YOU CAME INTO TOWN AND LOST HIS HEAD OVER HER! HE SAYS HE'LL HAVE HER-- AND EVEN YOU WON'T STOP HIM!
8
9

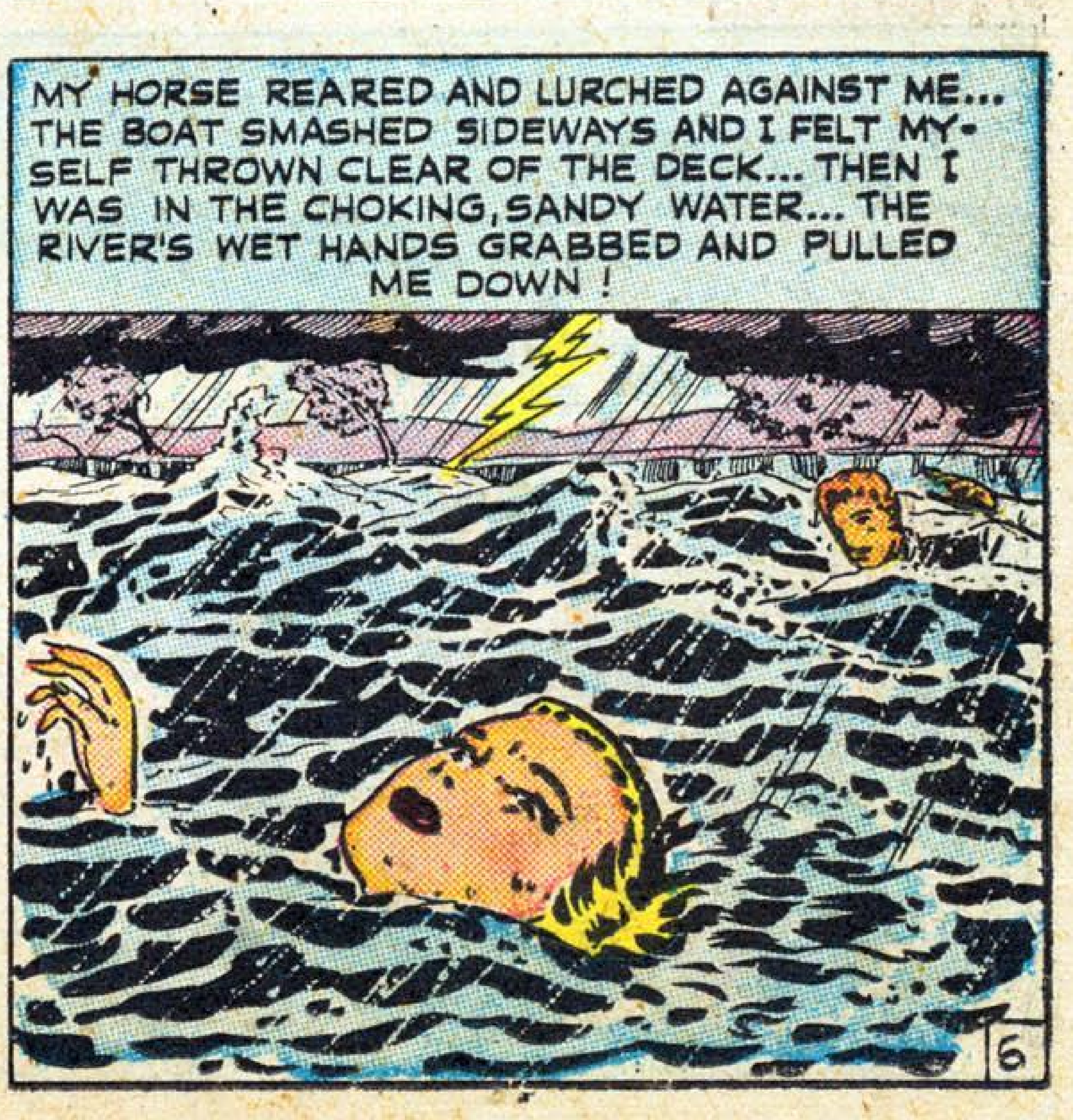

IT WORKED... IT GOT HIM! THE THOUGHT OF A MAN LIKE BLACK JACK EVEN THINKING OF HIS PRECIOUS GIRL TURNED HIM COLDLY MEAN! HE REACHED IN BACK OF THE DOOR FOR HIS GUN-BELT, A WICKED GLINT IN HIS EYES -- ALL CAUTION FLED BEFORE HIS ANGER!
ALL RIGHT! YOU SAY YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?... LEAD ME TO HIM!
HE'S UP IN THE MOUNTAINS BEYOND THE RIVER! IF WE HURRY-- RIDE ALL NIGHT-- WE MAY BEAT THE STORM!

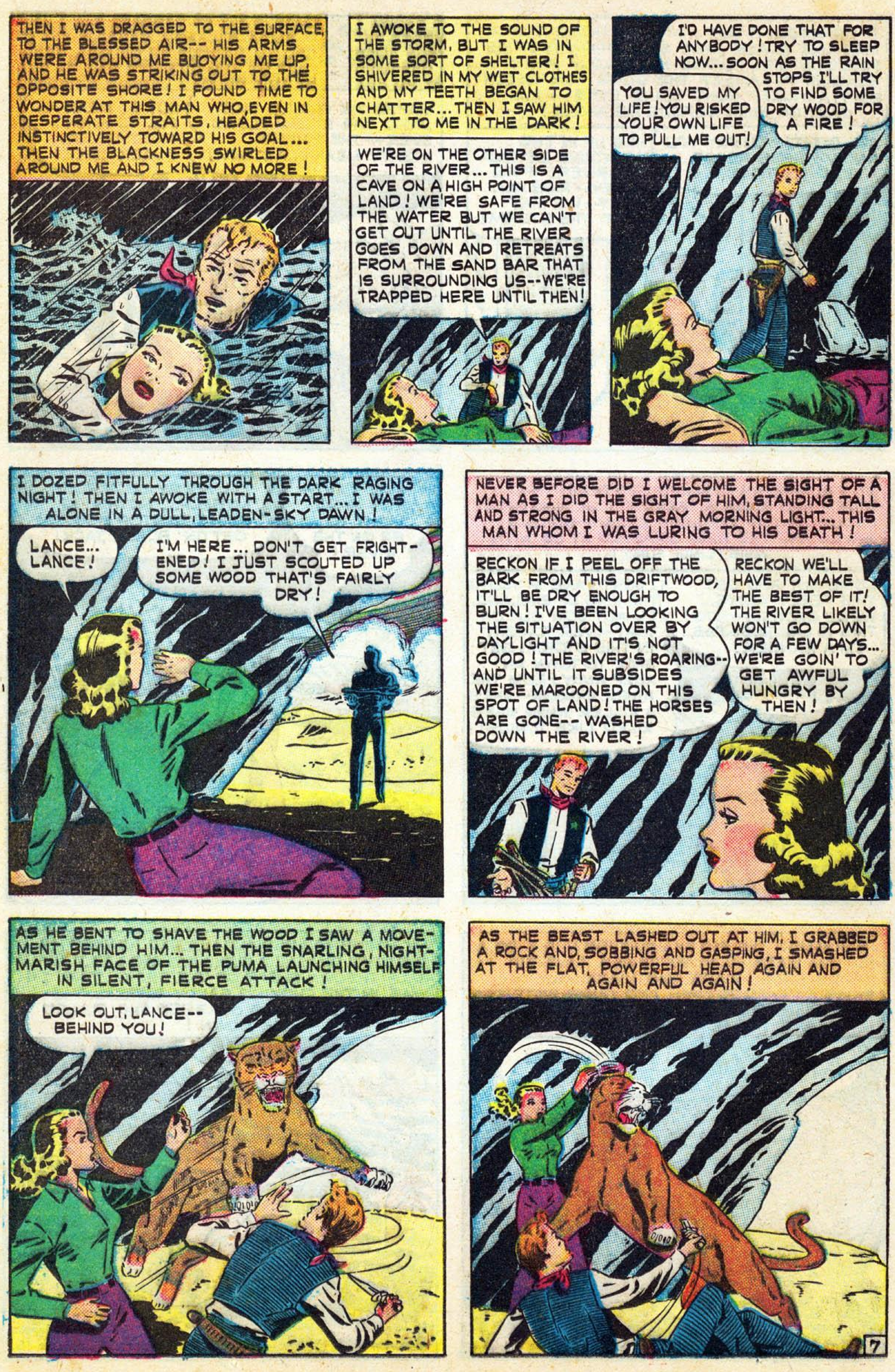

HE GOT THE HORSES AND WE WERE ON OUR WAY... A FITFUL WIND PICKED AT OUR CLOTHING AND THE FIRST FAT DROPS OF RAIN FELL FROM THE LOWERING SKY!
MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE STORM BLOWS OVER-- THE RIVER'S MIGHTY MEAN IN A STORM!
NOT SO MEAN AS I'LL BE WHEN I MEET UP WITH BLACK JACK!

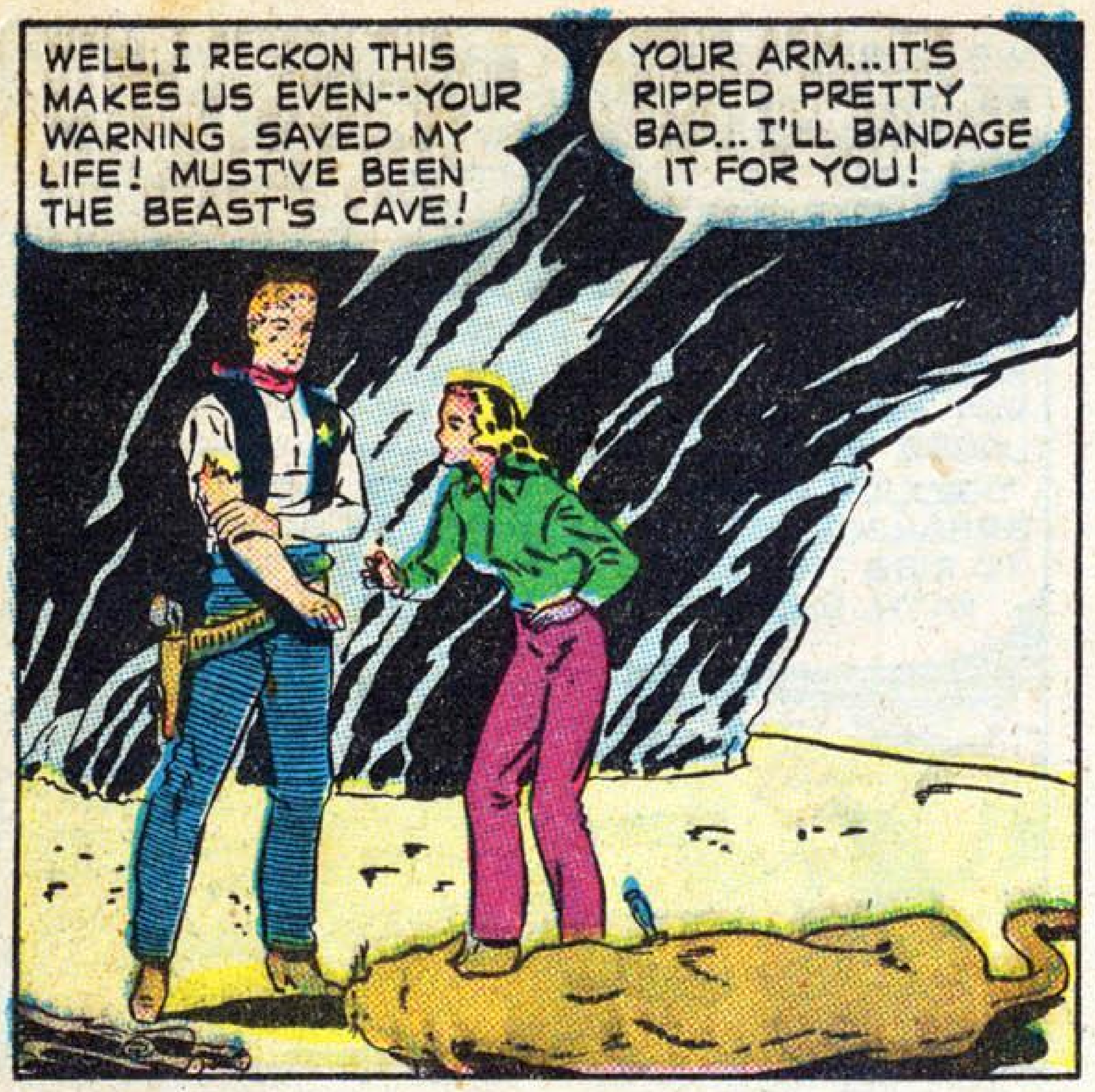

BY THE TIME WE REACHED THE FERRY THE STORM HAD BEGUN IN EARNEST! LIGHTNING GAVE US OUR VIEW OF THE UGLY STORM-BOILING WAVES AND THE WIND SMASHED AT US WITH WHISTLING FURY!
COME OUT AND GET THIS FERRY GOING... WE'RE CROSSIN'-- NOW! THIS IS LAW BUSINESS... I'M A RANGER!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE KING OF ENGLAND, I'M NOT GOIN' OUT ON THAT RIVER TONIGHT IN THIS STORM! GET BACK TO TOWN AN' KEEP AWAY FROM THE RIVER, RANGER-- SHE'S A KILLER WHEN SHE'S RILED LIKE TONIGHT!

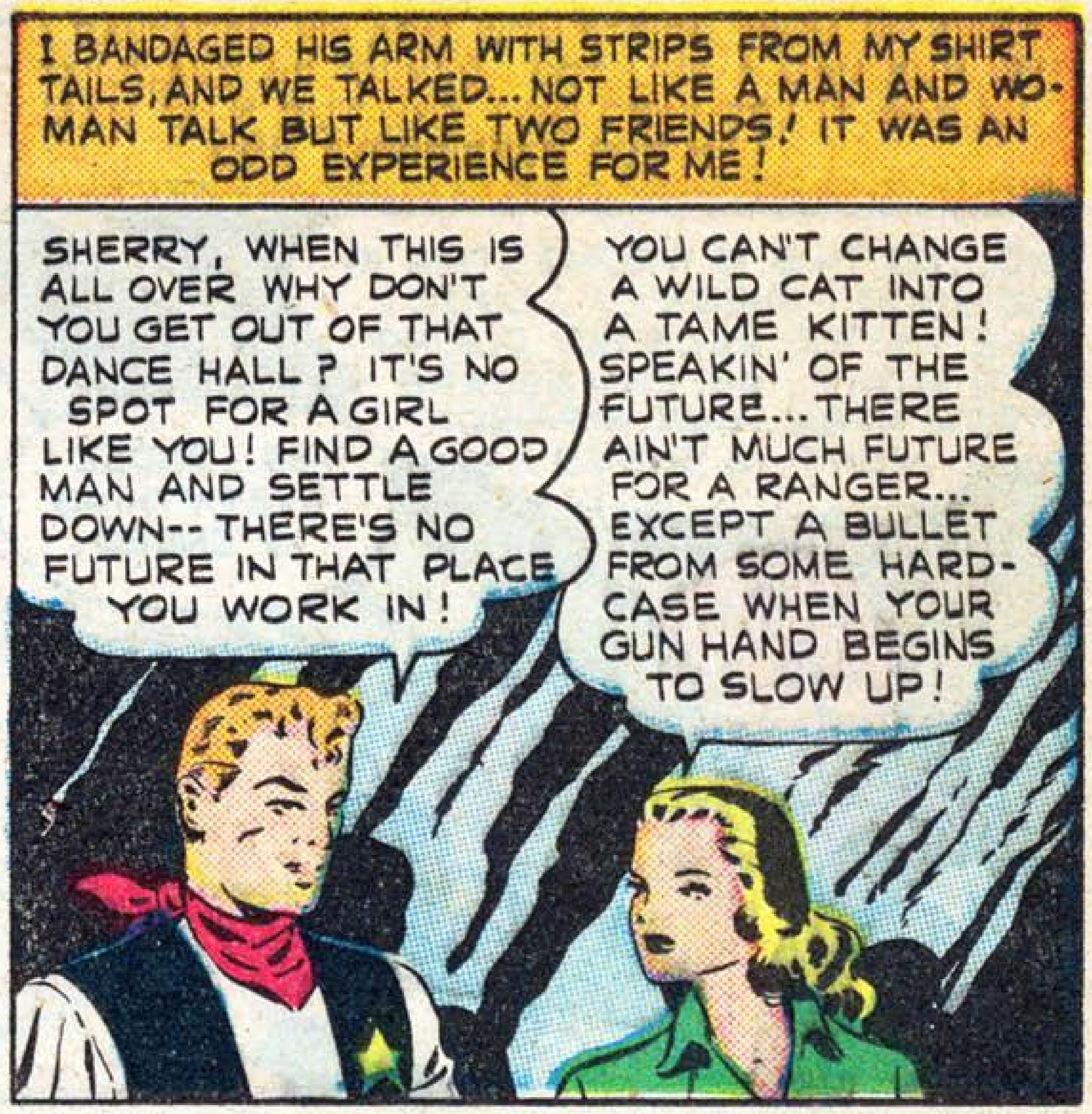

HE'S RIGHT-- THIS IS NO NIGHT TO BE ON THE RIVER!
I'LL FERRY US ACROSS MYSELF... NOTHIN' IS GOING TO STOP ME FROM GETTIN' BLACK JACK!

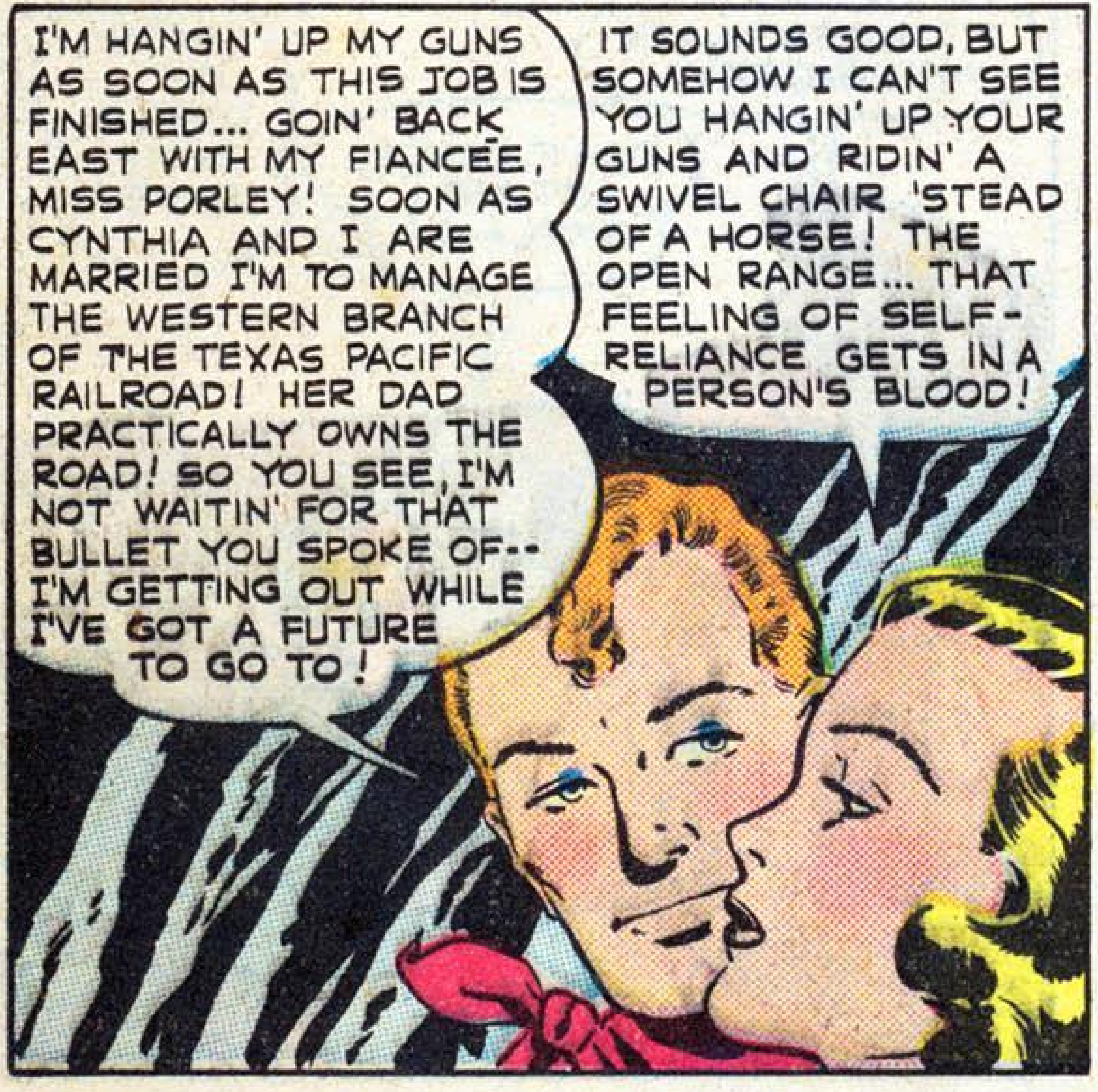

HE PUSHED THE FERRY BOAT FROM THE DOCK! BUT WE WEREN'T MORE THAN A HUNDRED YARDS FROM SHORE WHEN SUDDENLY THE SKIES SEEMED TO OPEN AND DUMP WATER LIKE A LIQUID LANDSLIDE... THE WAVES ROARED AND THE BOAT PLUNGED!
HANG ON!
THE BOAT... IT'S ROLLIN' OVER!

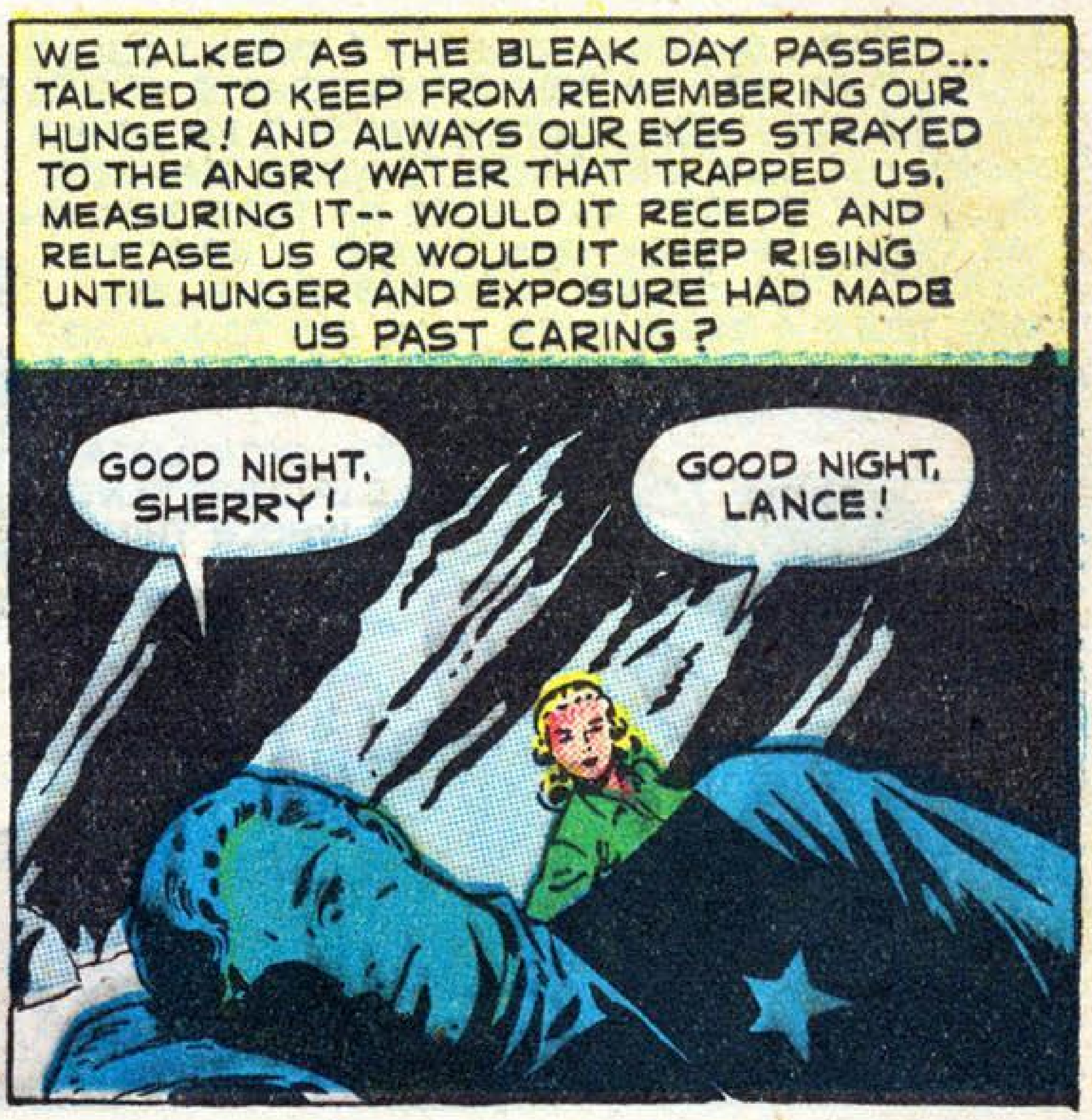

MY HORSE REARED AND LURCHED AGAINST ME... THE BOAT SMASHED SIDEWAYS AND I FELT MYSELF THROWN CLEAR OF THE DECK... THEN I WAS IN THE CHOKING, SANDY WATER... THE RIVER'S WET HANDS GRABBED AND PULLED ME DOWN!

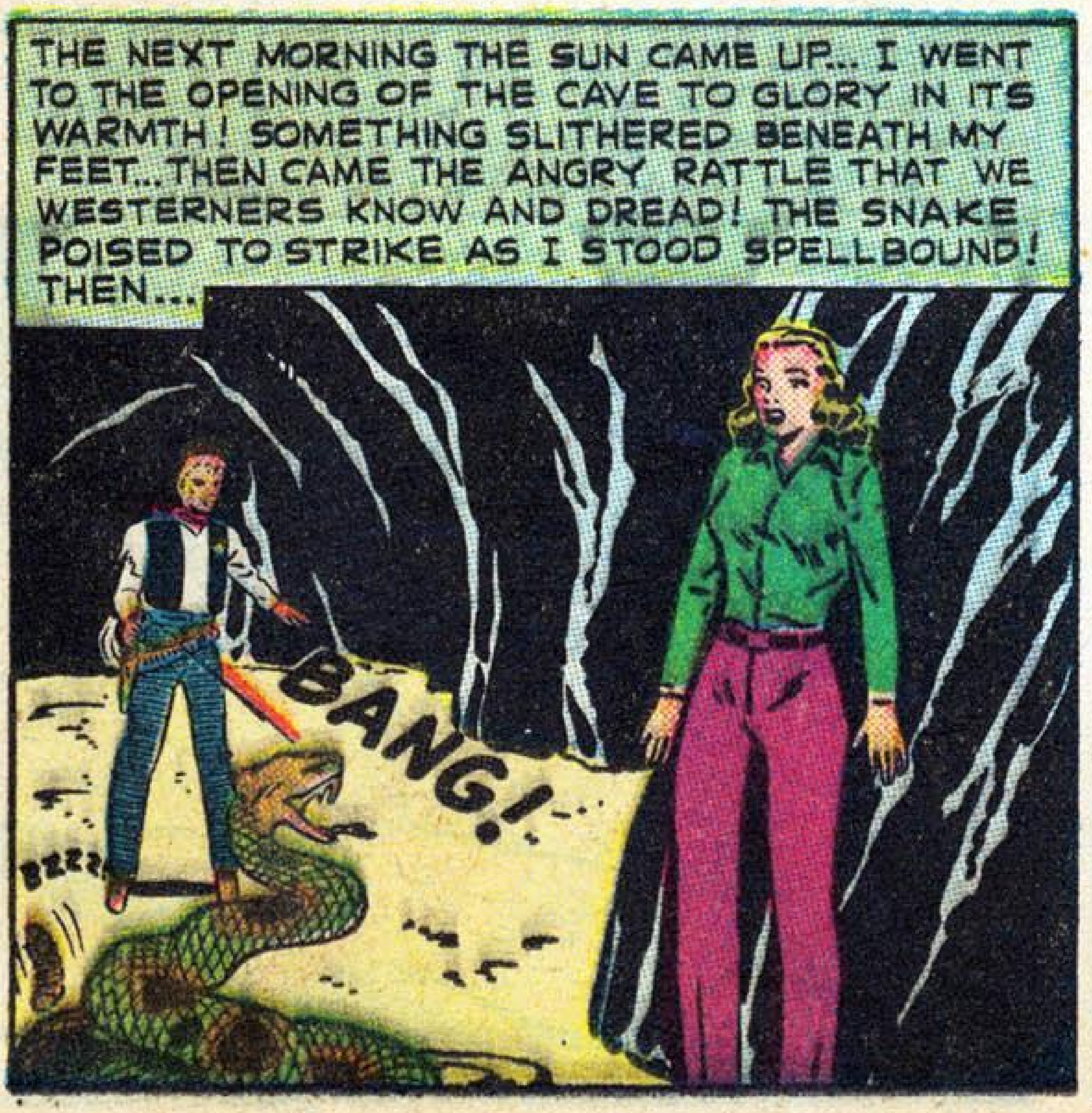

THEN I WAS DRAGGED TO THE SURFACE, TO THE BLESSED AIR-- HIS ARMS WERE AROUND ME BUOYING ME UP, AND HE WAS STRIKING OUT TO THE OPPOSITE SHORE! I FOUND TIME TO WONDER AT THIS MAN WHO, EVEN IN DESPERATE STRAITS, HEADED INSTINCTIVELY TOWARD HIS GOAL... THEN THE BLACKNESS SWIRLED AROUND ME AND I KNEW NO MORE!
I AWOKE TO THE SOUND OF THE STORM, BUT I WAS IN SOME SORT OF SHELTER! I SHIVERED IN MY WET CLOTHES AND MY TEETH BEGAN TO CHATTER... THEN I SAW HIM NEXT TO ME IN THE DARK!
WE'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER... THIS IS A CAVE ON A HIGH POINT OF LAND! WE'RE SAFE FROM THE WATER BUT WE CAN'T GET OUT UNTIL THE RIVER GOES DOWN AND RETREATS FROM THE SAND BAR THAT IS SURROUNDING US--WE'RE TRAPPED HERE UNTIL THEN!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE! YOU RISKED YOUR OWN LIFE TO PULL ME OUT!
I'D HAVE DONE THAT FOR ANYBODY! TRY TO SLEEP NOW... SOON AS THE RAIN STOPS I'LL TRY TO FIND SOME DRY WOOD FOR A FIRE!
I DOZED FITFULLY THROUGH THE DARK RAGING NIGHT! THEN I AWOKE WITH A START... I WAS ALONE IN A DULL, LEADEN-SKY DAWN!
LANCE... LANCE!
I'M HERE... DON'T GET FRIGHTENED! I JUST SCOUTED UP SOME WOOD THAT'S FAIRLY DRY!
NEVER BEFORE DID I WELCOME THE SIGHT OF A MAN AS I DID THE SIGHT OF HIM, STANDING TALL AND STRONG IN THE GRAY MORNING LIGHT... THIS MAN WHOM I WAS LURING TO HIS DEATH!
RECKON IF I PEEL OFF THE BARK FROM THIS DRIFTWOOD, IT'LL BE DRY ENOUGH TO BURN! I'VE BEEN LOOKING THE SITUATION OVER BY DAYLIGHT AND IT'S NOT GOOD! THE RIVER'S ROARING-- AND UNTIL IT SUBSIDES WE'RE MAROONED ON THIS SPOT OF LAND! THE HORSES ARE GONE-- WASHED DOWN THE RIVER!
RECKON WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT! THE RIVER LIKELY WON'T GO DOWN FOR A FEW DAYS... WE'RE GOIN' TO GET AWFUL HUNGRY BY THEN!
AS HE BENT TO SHAVE THE WOOD I SAW A MOVEMENT BEHIND HIM... THEN THE SNARLING, NIGHTMARISH FACE OF THE PUMA LAUNCHING HIMSELF IN SILENT, FIERCE ATTACK!
LOOK OUT, LANCE-- BEHIND YOU!
AS THE BEAST LASHED OUT AT HIM, I GRABBED A ROCK AND, SOBBING AND GASPING, I SMASHED AT THE FLAT, POWERFUL HEAD AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!

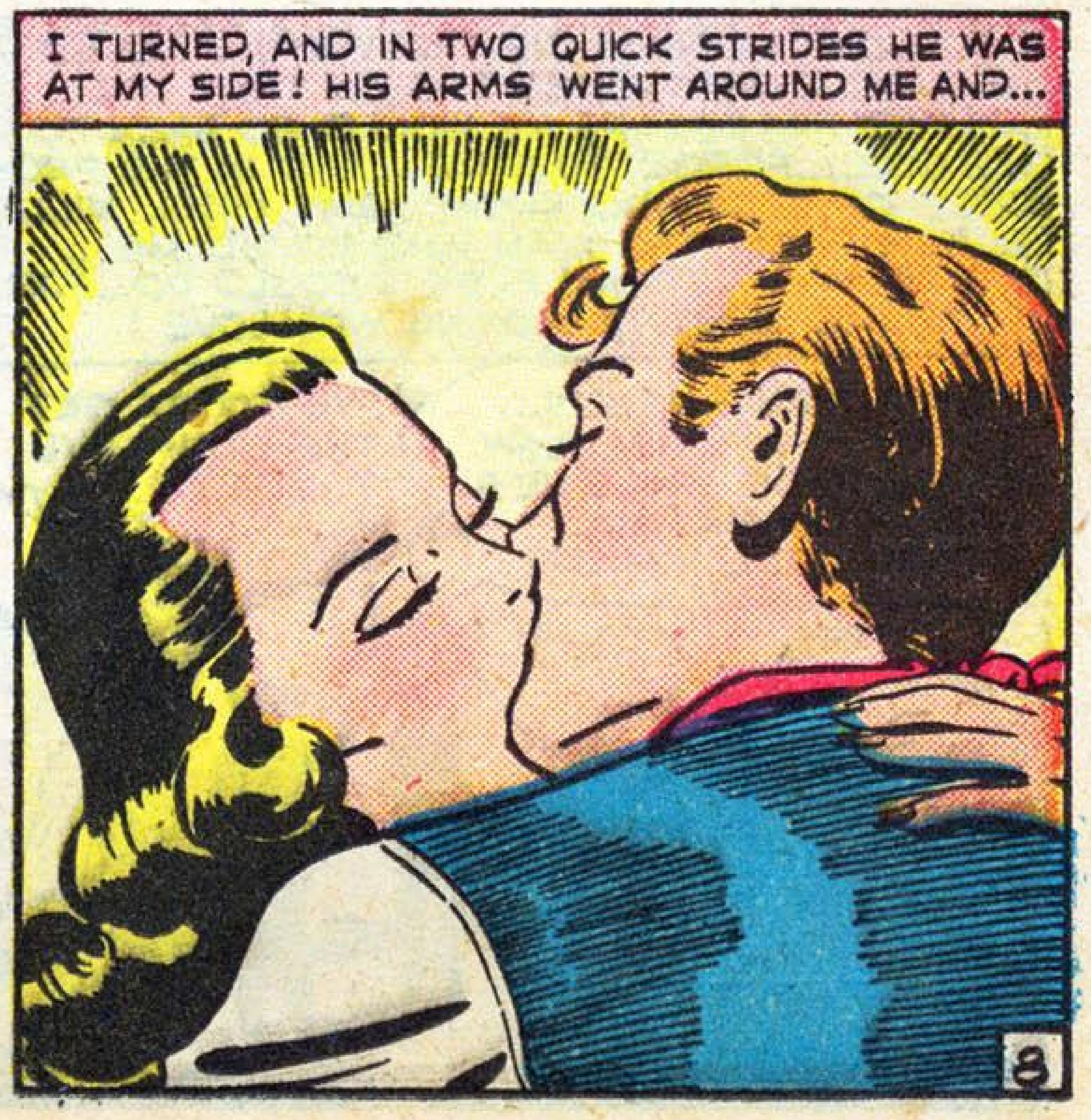

WELL, I RECKON THIS MAKES US EVEN--YOUR WARNING SAVED MY LIFE! MUST'VE BEEN THE BEAST'S CAVE!
YOUR ARM... IT'S RIPPED PRETTY BAD... I'LL BANDAGE IT FOR YOU!

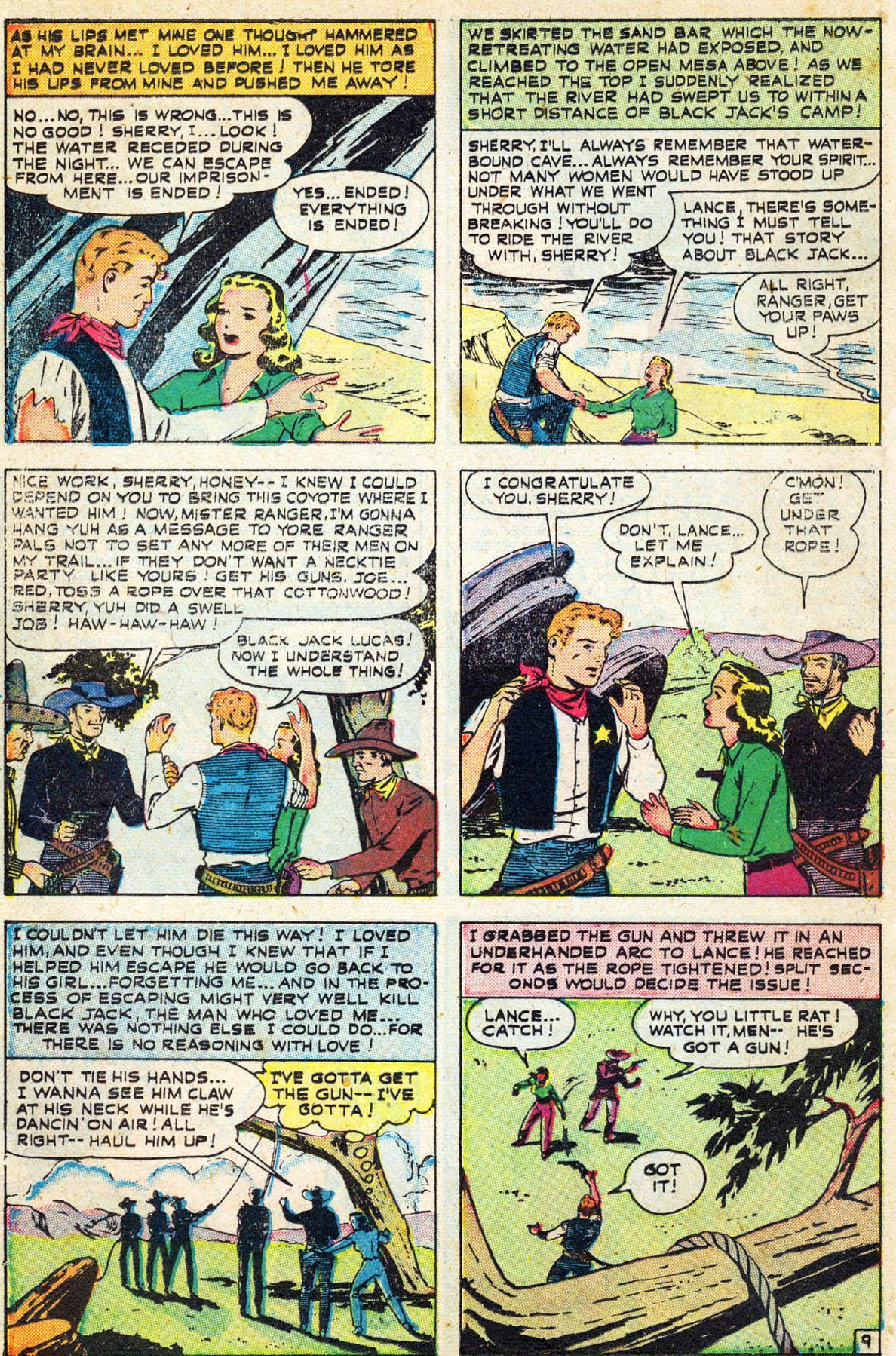

I BANDAGED HIS ARM WITH STRIPS FROM MY SHIRT TAILS, AND WE TALKED... NOT LIKE A MAN AND WOMAN TALK BUT LIKE TWO FRIENDS! IT WAS AN ODD EXPERIENCE FOR ME!
SHERRY, WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER WHY DON'T YOU GET OUT OF THAT DANCE HALL? IT'S NO SPOT FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU! FIND A GOOD MAN AND SETTLE DOWN-- THERE'S NO FUTURE IN THAT PLACE YOU WORK IN!
YOU CAN'T CHANGE A WILD CAT INTO A TAME KITTEN! SPEAKIN' OF THE FUTURE... THERE AIN'T MUCH FUTURE FOR A RANGER... EXCEPT A BULLET FROM SOME HARD-CASE WHEN YOUR GUN HAND BEGINS TO SLOW UP!

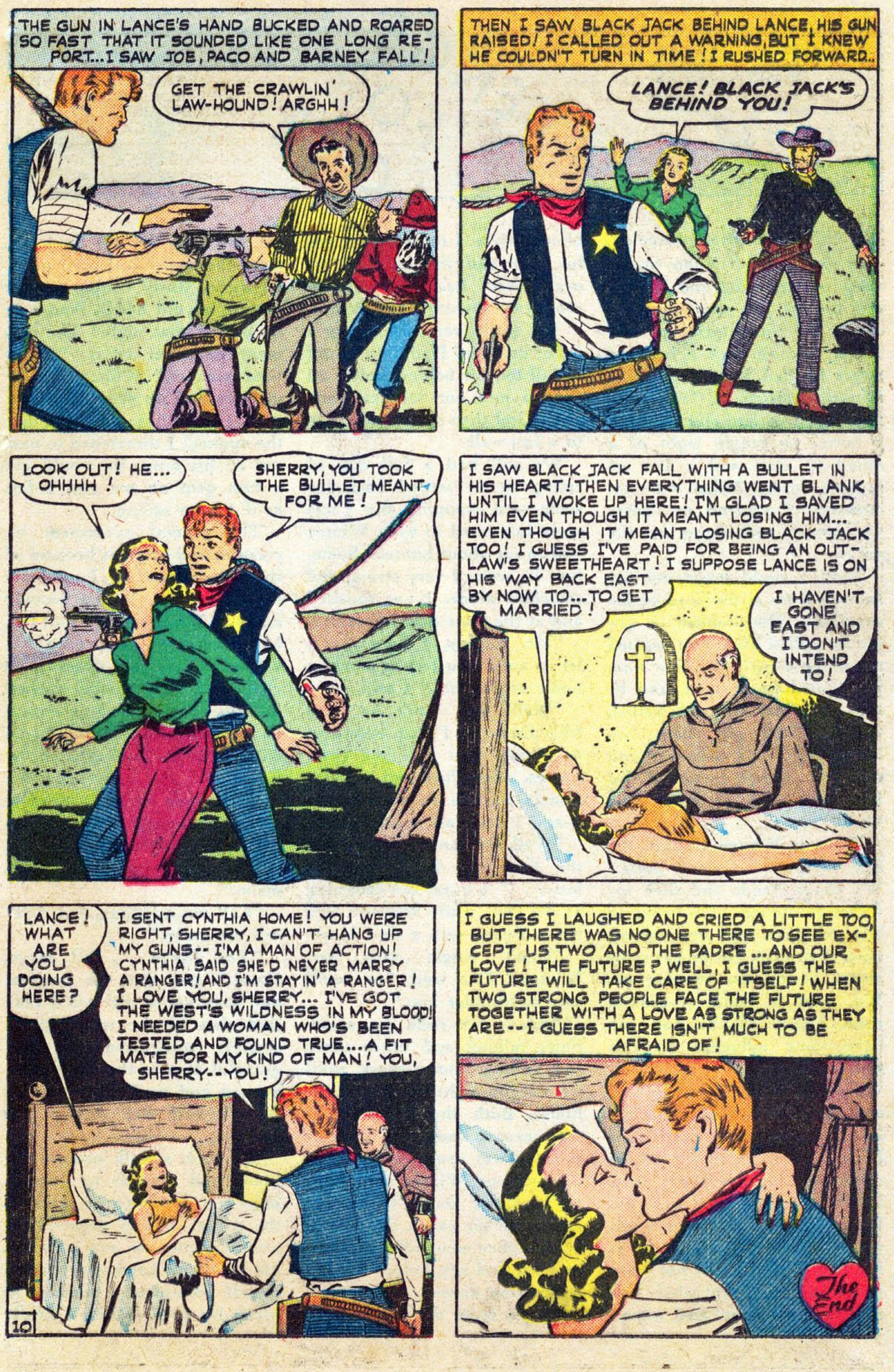

I'M HANGIN' UP MY GUNS AS SOON AS THIS JOB IS FINISHED... GOIN' BACK EAST WITH MY FIANCÉE, MISS PORLEY! SOON AS CYNTHIA AND I ARE MARRIED I'M TO MANAGE THE WESTERN BRANCH OF THE TEXAS PACIFIC RAILROAD! HER DAD PRACTICALLY OWNS THE ROAD! SO YOU SEE, I'M NOT WAITIN' FOR THAT BULLET YOU SPOKE OF-- I'M GETTING OUT WHILE I'VE GOT A FUTURE TO GO TO!
IT SOUNDS GOOD, BUT SOMEHOW I CAN'T SEE YOU HANGIN' UP YOUR GUNS AND RIDIN' A SWIVEL CHAIR 'STEAD OF A HORSE! THE OPEN RANGE... THAT FEELING OF SELF-RELIANCE GETS IN A PERSON'S BLOOD!

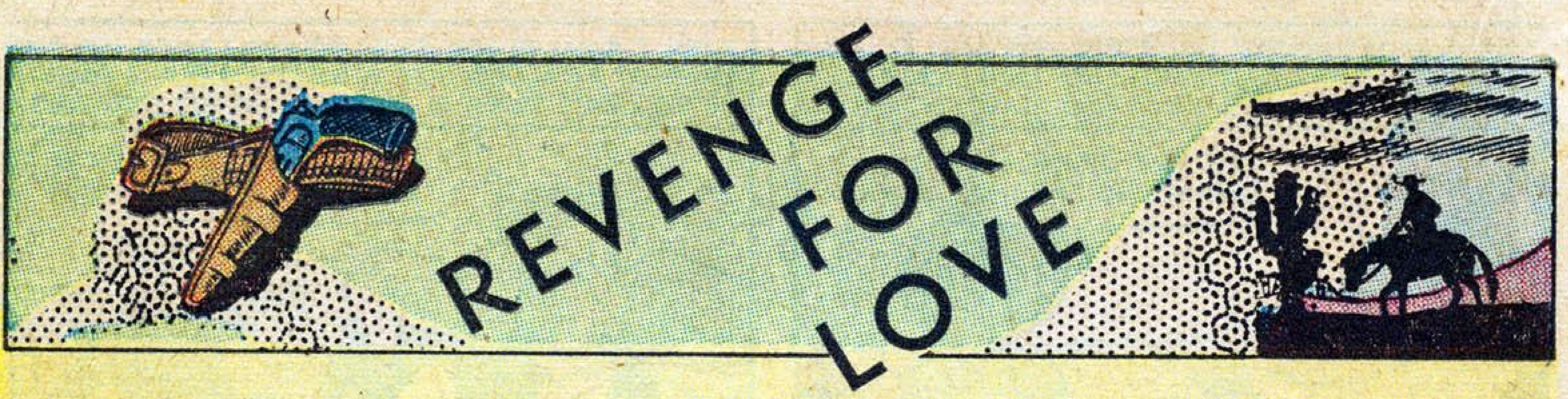

WE TALKED AS THE BLEAK DAY PASSED... TALKED TO KEEP FROM REMEMBERING OUR HUNGER! AND ALWAYS OUR EYES STRAYED TO THE ANGRY WATER THAT TRAPPED US, MEASURING IT-- WOULD IT RECEDE AND RELEASE US OR WOULD IT KEEP RISING UNTIL HUNGER AND EXPOSURE HAD MADE US PAST CARING?
GOOD NIGHT, SHERRY!
GOOD NIGHT, LANCE!


THE NEXT MORNING THE SUN CAME UP... I WENT TO THE OPENING OF THE CAVE TO GLORY IN ITS WARMTH! SOMETHING SLITHERED BENEATH MY FEET... THEN CAME THE ANGRY RATTLE THAT WE WESTERNERS KNOW AND DREAD! THE SNAKE POISED TO STRIKE AS I STOOD SPELLBOUND! THEN...
BANG!
BZZZ


I TURNED, AND IN TWO QUICK STRIDES HE WAS AT MY SIDE! HIS ARMS WENT AROUND ME AND...


AS HIS LIPS MET MINE ONE THOUGHT HAMMERED AT MY BRAIN... I LOVED HIM... I LOVED HIM AS I HAD NEVER LOVED BEFORE! THEN HE TORE HIS LIPS FROM MINE AND PUSHED ME AWAY!
NO... NO, THIS IS WRONG... THIS IS NO GOOD! SHERRY, I... LOOK! THE WATER RECEDED DURING THE NIGHT... WE CAN ESCAPE FROM HERE... OUR IMPRISONMENT IS ENDED!
YES... ENDED! EVERYTHING IS ENDED!
WE SKIRTED THE SAND BAR WHICH THE NOW-RETREATING WATER HAD EXPOSED, AND CLIMBED TO THE OPEN MESA ABOVE! AS WE REACHED THE TOP I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT THE RIVER HAD SWEPT US TO WITHIN A SHORT DISTANCE OF BLACK JACK'S CAMP!
SHERRY, I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WATER-BOUND CAVE... ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR SPIRIT... NOT MANY WOMEN WOULD HAVE STOOD UP UNDER WHAT WE WENT THROUGH WITHOUT BREAKING! YOU'LL DO TO RIDE THE RIVER WITH, SHERRY!
LANCE, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU! THAT STORY ABOUT BLACK JACK...
ALL RIGHT, RANGER, GET YOUR PAWS UP!
NICE WORK, SHERRY, HONEY-- I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU TO BRING THIS COYOTE WHERE I WANTED HIM! NOW, MISTER RANGER, I'M GONNA HANG YUH AS A MESSAGE TO YORE RANGER PALS NOT TO SET ANY MORE OF THEIR MEN ON MY TRAIL... IF THEY DON'T WANT A NECKTIE PARTY LIKE YOURS! GET HIS GUNS, JOE... RED, TOSS A ROPE OVER THAT COTTONWOOD! SHERRY, YUH DID A SWELL JOB! HAW-HAW-HAW!
BLACK JACK LUCAS! NOW I UNDERSTAND THE WHOLE THING!
I CONGRATULATE YOU, SHERRY!
DON'T, LANCE... LET ME EXPLAIN!
C'MON! GET UNDER THAT ROPE!
I COULDN'T LET HIM DIE THIS WAY! I LOVED HIM, AND EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THAT IF I HELPED HIM ESCAPE HE WOULD GO BACK TO HIS GIRL... FORGETTING ME... AND IN THE PROCESS OF ESCAPING MIGHT VERY WELL KILL BLACK JACK, THE MAN WHO LOVED ME... THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO... FOR THERE IS NO REASONING WITH LOVE!
DON'T TIE HIS HANDS... I WANNA SEE HIM CLAW AT HIS NECK WHILE HE'S DANCIN' ON AIR! ALL RIGHT-- HAUL HIM UP!
I'VE GOTTA GET THE GUN-- I'VE GOTTA!
I GRABBED THE GUN AND THREW IT IN AN UNDERHANDED ARC TO LANCE! HE REACHED FOR IT AS THE ROPE TIGHTENED! SPLIT SECONDS WOULD DECIDE THE ISSUE!
LANCE... CATCH!
WHY, YOU LITTLE RAT! WATCH IT, MEN-- HE'S GOT A GUN!
GOT IT!


THE GUN IN LANCE'S HAND BUCKED AND ROARED SO FAST THAT IT SOUNDED LIKE ONE LONG REPORT...I SAW JOE, PACO AND BARNEY FALL!
GET THE CRAWLIN' LAW-HOUND! ARGHH!
THEN I SAW BLACK JACK BEHIND LANCE, HIS GUN RAISED! I CALLED OUT A WARNING, BUT I KNEW HE COULDN'T TURN IN TIME! I RUSHED FORWARD..
LANCE! BLACK JACK'S BEHIND YOU!
LOOK OUT! HE... OHHHH!
SHERRY, YOU TOOK THE BULLET MEANT FOR ME!
I SAW BLACK JACK FALL WITH A BULLET IN HIS HEART! THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLANK UNTIL I WOKE UP HERE! I'M GLAD I SAVED HIM EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT LOSING HIM... EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT LOSING BLACK JACK TOO! I GUESS I'VE PAID FOR BEING AN OUTLAW'S SWEETHEART! I SUPPOSE LANCE IS ON HIS WAY BACK EAST
BY NOW TO...TO GET MARRIED!
I HAVEN'T GONE EAST AND I DON'T INTEND TO!
LANCE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I SENT CYNTHIA HOME! YOU WERE RIGHT, SHERRY, I CAN'T HANG UP MY GUNS-- I'M A MAN OF ACTION! CYNTHIA SAID SHE'D NEVER MARRY A RANGER! AND I'M STAYIN' A RANGER! I LOVE YOU, SHERRY... I'VE GOT THE WEST'S WILDNESS IN MY BLOOD! I NEEDED A WOMAN WHO'S BEEN TESTED AND FOUND TRUE...A FIT MATE FOR MY KIND OF MAN! YOU, SHERRY--YOU!
I GUESS I LAUGHED AND CRIED A LITTLE TOO, BUT THERE WAS NO ONE THERE TO SEE EXCEPT US TWO AND THE PADRE...AND OUR LOVE! THE FUTURE? WELL, I GUESS THE FUTURE WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF! WHEN TWO STRONG PEOPLE FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER WITH A LOVE AS STRONG AS THEY ARE--I GUESS THERE ISN'T MUCH TO BE AFRAID OF!
The End



REVENGE FOR LOVE

RUSTY, our ranch foreman, and I saddled our horses early one morning and headed out toward the open mesa to catch the first sight of my father leading back a herd of steers he had bought down in Sonora, Mexico. A few hours later when we had climbed onto a butte, we caught sight of a cloud of dust and a line of moving forms. Filled with excitement, I spurred my horse and quickly rode down into the valley.

Soon I could make out my father's form at the head of the cavalcade. The moment he saw me he pulled aside and seemed to motion a man to follow him. I galloped up to Dad, and he took his hat off and yelled, "Hello Daisy girl, have you been good?" We embraced and then my father motioned for his companion to come forward.

"This is Whitey Collins, the best cowpoke in these parts." We shook hands and then my father continued. "I'm trying to talk this lone wolf into staying on at the ranch, but he has some secret reason for moving on. We need a good all-around man, Daisy. Maybe you can have some influence on this stubborn mule."

To this Whitey just smiled and gathered his horse's bridle in his hands. He looked as if he had spent all of his life in the open; his build was lean, his hands were hard and calloused and his face had a tan, almost leathery quality to it. He had taken off his hat when introduced and revealed hair that was straight and almost blonde-white. I think that it was his hair and the blue of his eyes that had immediately caught my attention and held it.

The cattle were kicking up a lot of dust and Dad didn't want to fall too far behind, so we all slipped into our saddles, rode ahead and then slowed our pace to a fast walk.

We still had a full day of riding so we settled back for some yarn swapping. But I was more interested in what Whitey had to say about himself. Somehow he seemed very strong and somehow alone. I was touched and at the same time impressed.

"Mr. Collins, I hope you'll let us make you feel as much at home as possible," I said.

"Well, that won't be hard Miss Daisy, as I'm an easy man to please. Just give me good horses, good chow and a pretty woman to talk to occasionally —and I don't ask much more."

"Well, we can guarantee you the first two, but as to the last . . ." I burst out laughing as did Dad, while Whitey's face was suffused with a slow blush.

"Don't tangle with her, Whitey," Dad said, "or you'll sure as thunder lose."

And so we rode on, sometimes talking and other times just falling into silences, until we caught sight of the ranch house. Both the animals and men seem to know that the long journey was over—at least for the moment. Whitey must have really taken Dad's fancy. He came into the ranch house with us and then went off with Dad to wash and rest before the big celebration dinner.

People from the neighboring ranches came for the feast and after the chairs had been pushed aside, Rusty couldn't resist getting his old fiddle. And how he played that night! The moment someone cried, "Swing your partner," Whitey was by my side and we went off into a reel. He held me lightly, but the moment I threatened to pass out of his arms, he would get a firm grip on me and I felt as if I were sailing.

The general excitement increased, and perhaps because of the lack of fresh air, I suddenly felt faint and leaned heavily against Whitey. He half-led, half-carried me out onto the verandah, sat me down in a chair and then quickly rushed into the noisy room. In a second he had returned with some cool cider and was putting it to my lips.

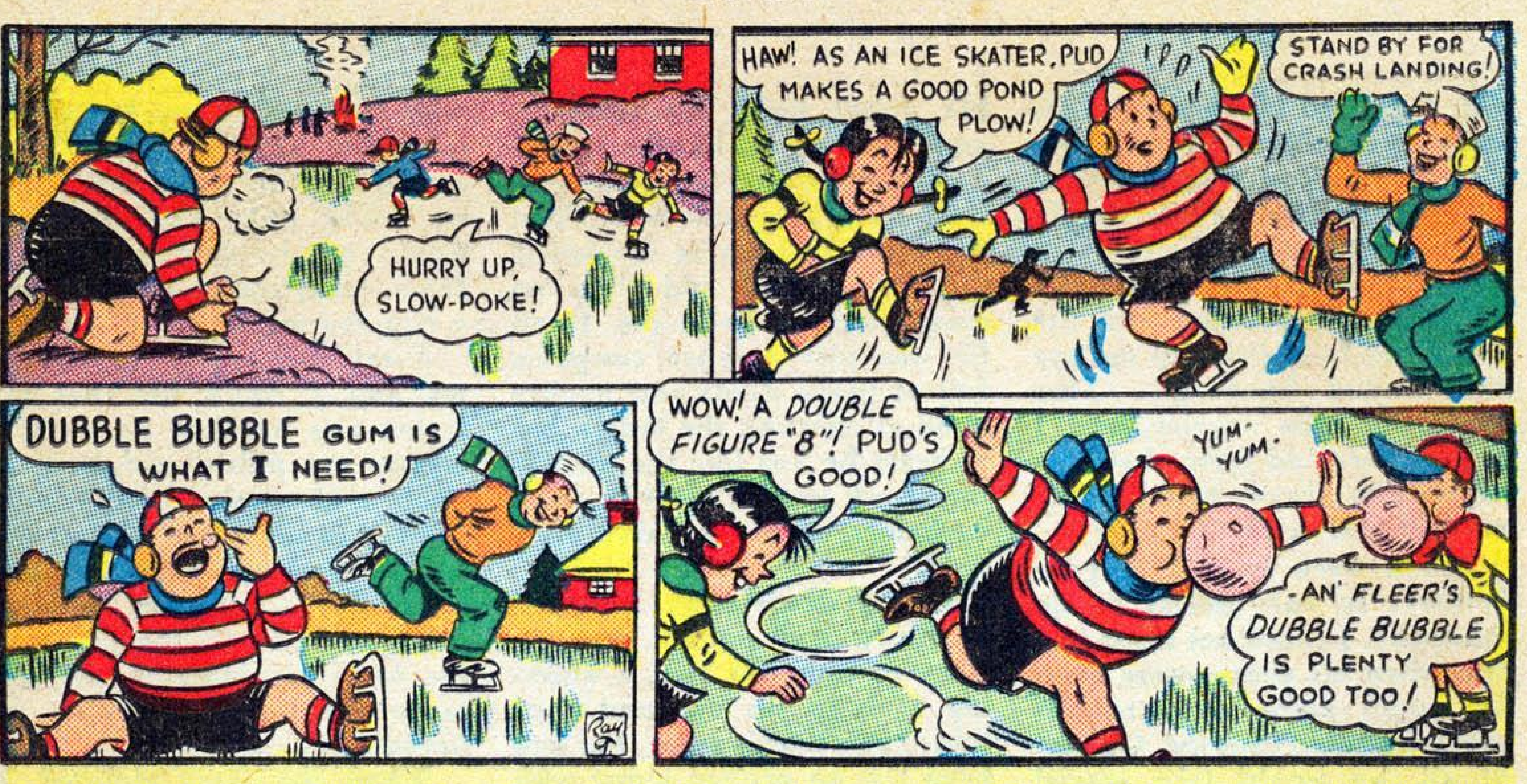
"You seem to be as good at saving swooning women as tying ornery calves," I said.

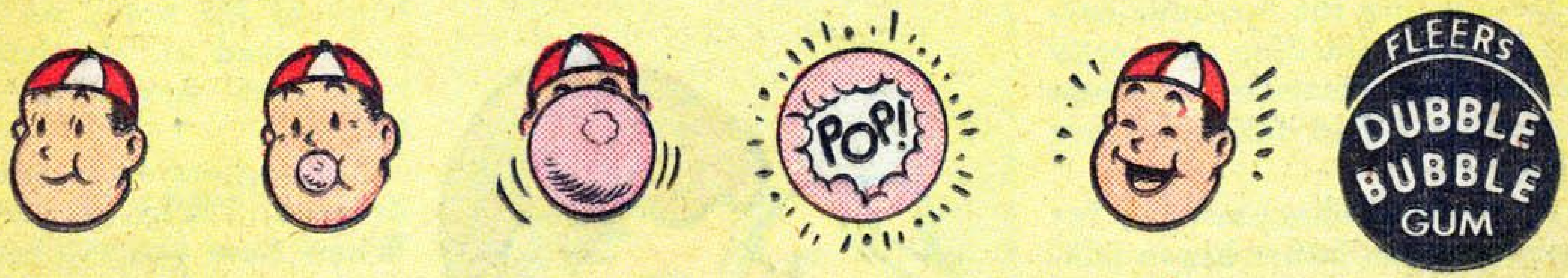
"It's all in a day's work, ma'm."

"Call me anything, but don't call me ma'm."

"Yes, Ma'm . . . I mean, Daisy," and then he laughed and drew me to my feet. I realized that in the moonlight I scarcely recognized this tall, graceful man as the dusty, sunburned and trail-weary cowboy that I had met earlier that morning.

We took a walk around the house and then as we stepped onto the porch to go back to the dance, Whitey grabbed my arm and spun me into his arms. He kissed me hard and I found myself completely unable to break his grip. When I finally


HURRY UP, SLOW-POKE!
HAW! AS AN ICE SKATER, PUD MAKES A GOOD POND PLOW!
STAND BY FOR CRASH LANDING!
DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM IS WHAT I NEED!
WOW! A DOUBLE FIGURE "8"! PUD'S GOOD!
YUM-YUM-
-AN' FLEER'S DUBBLE BUBBLE IS PLENTY GOOD TOO!


POP!
FLEERS DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM

WHEN IT COMES TO BLOWING BUBBLES, FLEER'S DUBBLE BUBBLE CAN'T BE BEAT!

---

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WHIP WILSON*

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MARVEL COMIC

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did, I slapped his face resoundingly, muttering, "Mr. Collins, I think that you misunderstood my father's offer. He'll supply the horses, the good chow . . . but not the pretty women." With that I marched into the room. My father caught my eye and smiled knowingly. That made me even angrier, and I ran upstairs and from sheer exasperation, threw myself onto my bed and cried.

But a week later I forgave Whitey. It was useless to do otherwise. I could not resist him and when his chores were over, he would come over to the ranch house to visit me. Or best of all, we would take special rides out into the mesquite-covered prairie, smelling so sweetly in the early morning. I knew then that I had fallen in love with him.

A month of bliss passed by for me. And then father began talking about hitting the trail with some cattle to be sold up in Abilene. One morning at breakfast he told me that Whitey had asked to take them up to Abilene. I was frantic and my father sensed it, saying, "I'm sorry to lose Whitey Collins. But I can't make him stay. I know he would like to marry you, Daisy, but something seems to be holding him back. And it isn't shyness," he said with a sly smile. He's got one of the best reputations in these parts, yet there is something mighty strange somewhere."

I didn't want to hear any more, as I rushed out to the corral where Whitey was breaking one of Dad's colts. When he saw me, he put down the saddle in his hands and jumped out of the way of the angry colt. Climbing through the rails he walked up to me and looked as sad as I felt.

"Oh, Whitey, are you really leaving? Why didn't you give me some warning? Don't you know that I'm in love with you? At least we Trumbulls are open about things," I said bitterly.

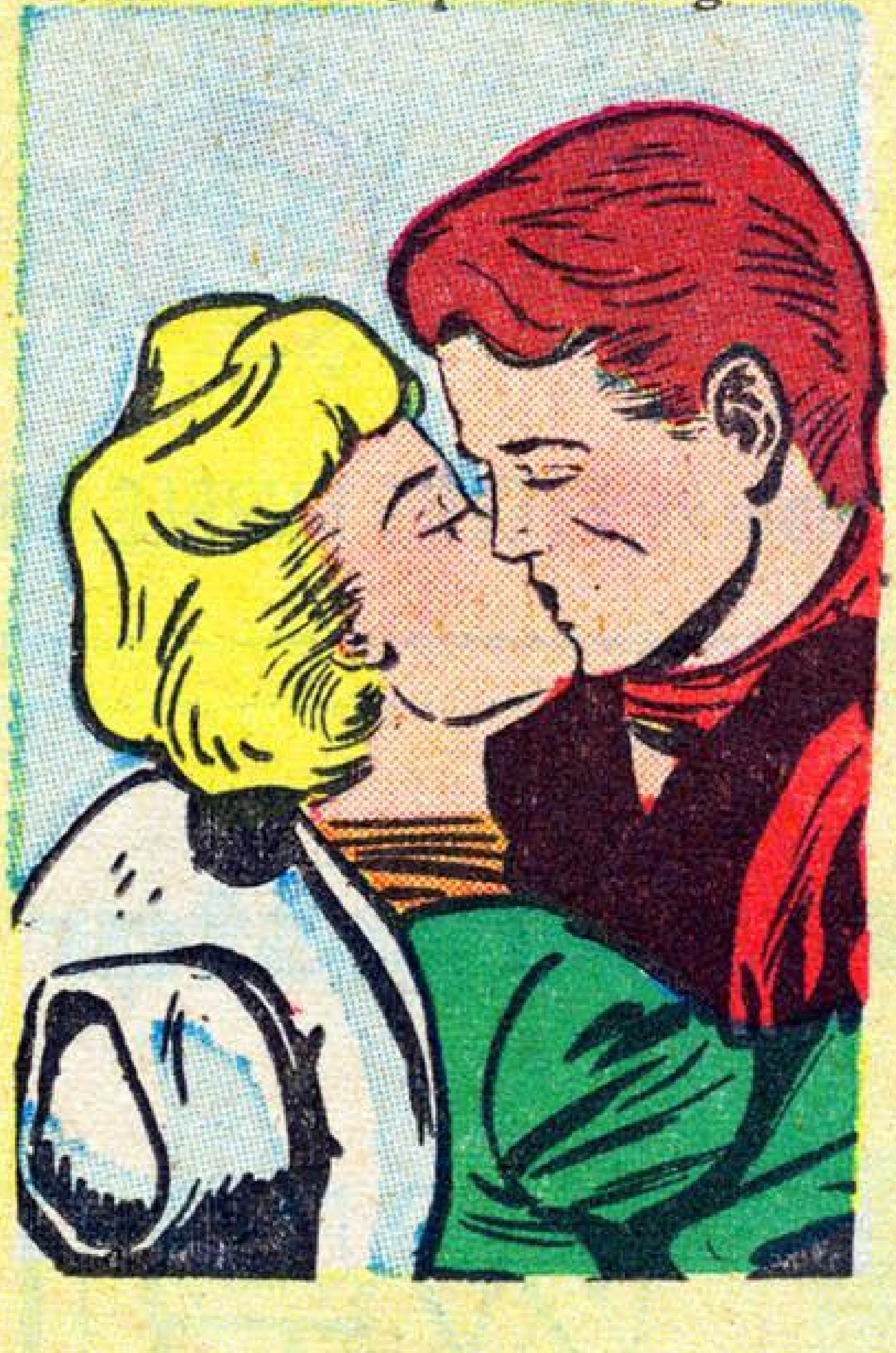
"I love you, too, Daisy, but I wouldn't marry any woman and then leave her a widow." He didn't finish his sentence, and I looked up in amazement.

"What do you mean?"

"I can't explain now. You just have to trust in my love."

My heart sank and bitter accusations rose up in me. I felt he was just another cowpoke, full of brave deeds and mighty good at courting the ladies, but at heart he was like the men in the chuck wagon, most of them bachelors until the day they died.

In my desperation I turned to Rusty and poured out my story to him. He had a knowing look in his eye and then told me Whitey's story. He had been left an orphan along with his brother. Later they had gone into ranching, but one day the Tonto Kid had ridden through and stolen most of the cattle and shot Whitey's brother. Before he died, however, he made Whitey swear that he would avenge his death. And for the last two years Whitey had been hunting Tonto relentlessly. But Rusty said he had many friends on the lookout — in fact, one had stopped by this morning and told him the Tonto Kid was set up in Abilene as a gambler.



I went out in search of Whitey now, frantic to try to dissuade him from his vengeance. But he had left, taking two horses with him for a faster trip. I turned to my father for help, but he said that Whitey had done the right thing and we could only wait. A stage would not be coming through for a week, and it was too long a trip for me to make alone.

Every day was a torture to me and I could see that my father was worried. At night I lay on my pillow and both in sleep and awake I had only Whitey in my mind. At last the week was up and my father and I boarded a stage for Abilene. Only when I saw the lights of the town twinkling in the distance did I feel somewhat relieved.

When the stage stopped in front of the hotel, we immediately asked an old-timer if he had ever heard of Whitey Collins.

Spitting out some tobacco, he drawled, "Why, I sure have. Where have you two been? Best excitement the town's had in nigh-on a year. Yes, indeed . . ." I was so impatient that I could scarcely contain myself and blurted out, "Is he alive?"

"Well, ma'm, yes and no." At this point my father asked where he was. The old fellow pointed to a boarding house down the street and we both rushed away.

The landlady looked at us curiously, but led us upstairs. The room was in semi-darkness but I recognized him, tho' he was so changed. He sensed my presence and reached out his hand for mine.

"Oh, Whitey, are you all right?" I asked falling to my knees.

"You can't kill this old man even if you have to shoot him in the back."

"And the Tonto Kid?" Father asked. Whitey turned a smiling face to him and said, "There just ain't no more Tonto Kid."

Turning back to me, he pulled me to his chest and I felt his cool lips on mine.

"If you're patient, honey, I'll come back to your Dad's ranch, but we'll be married when we leave here."

THE END

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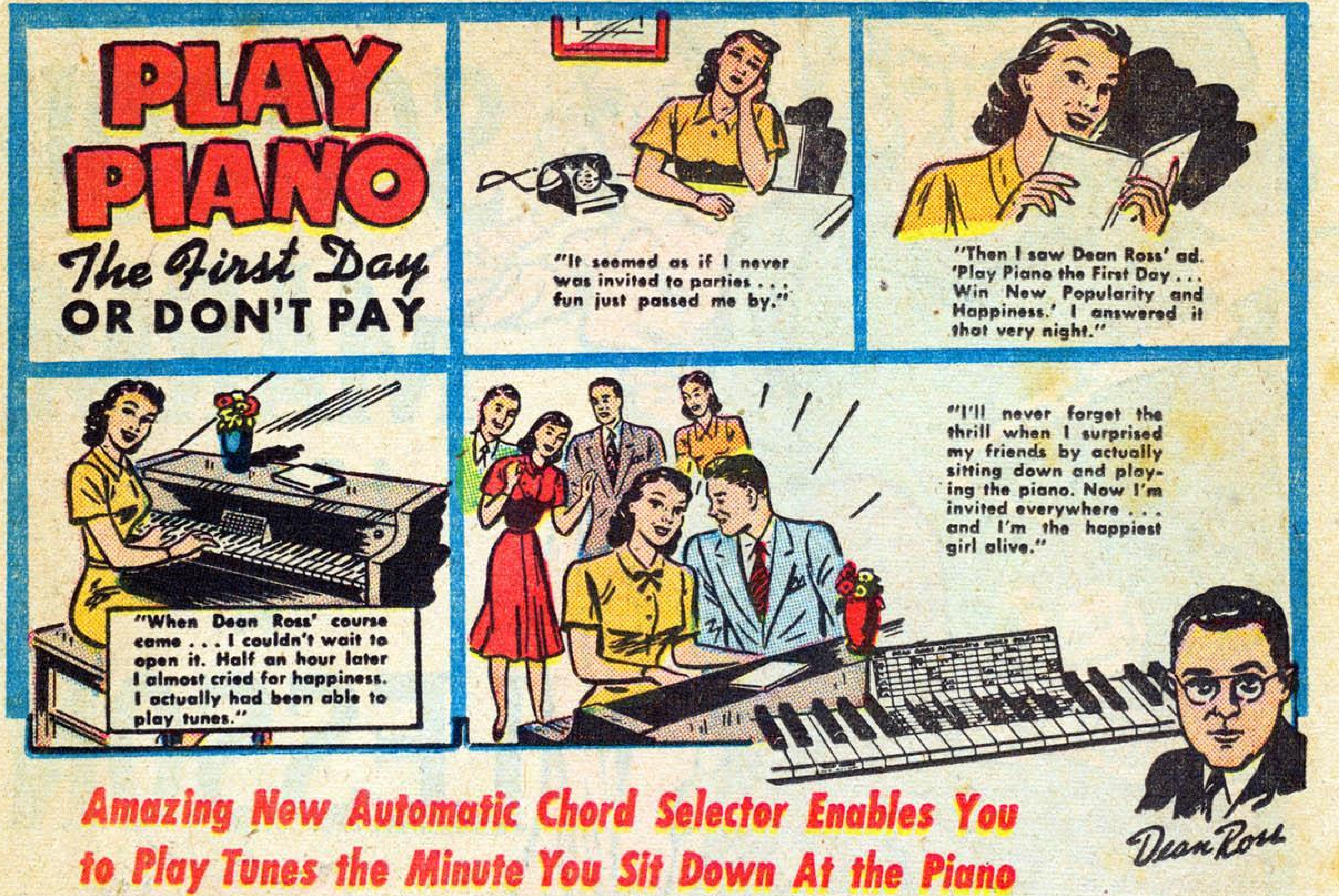
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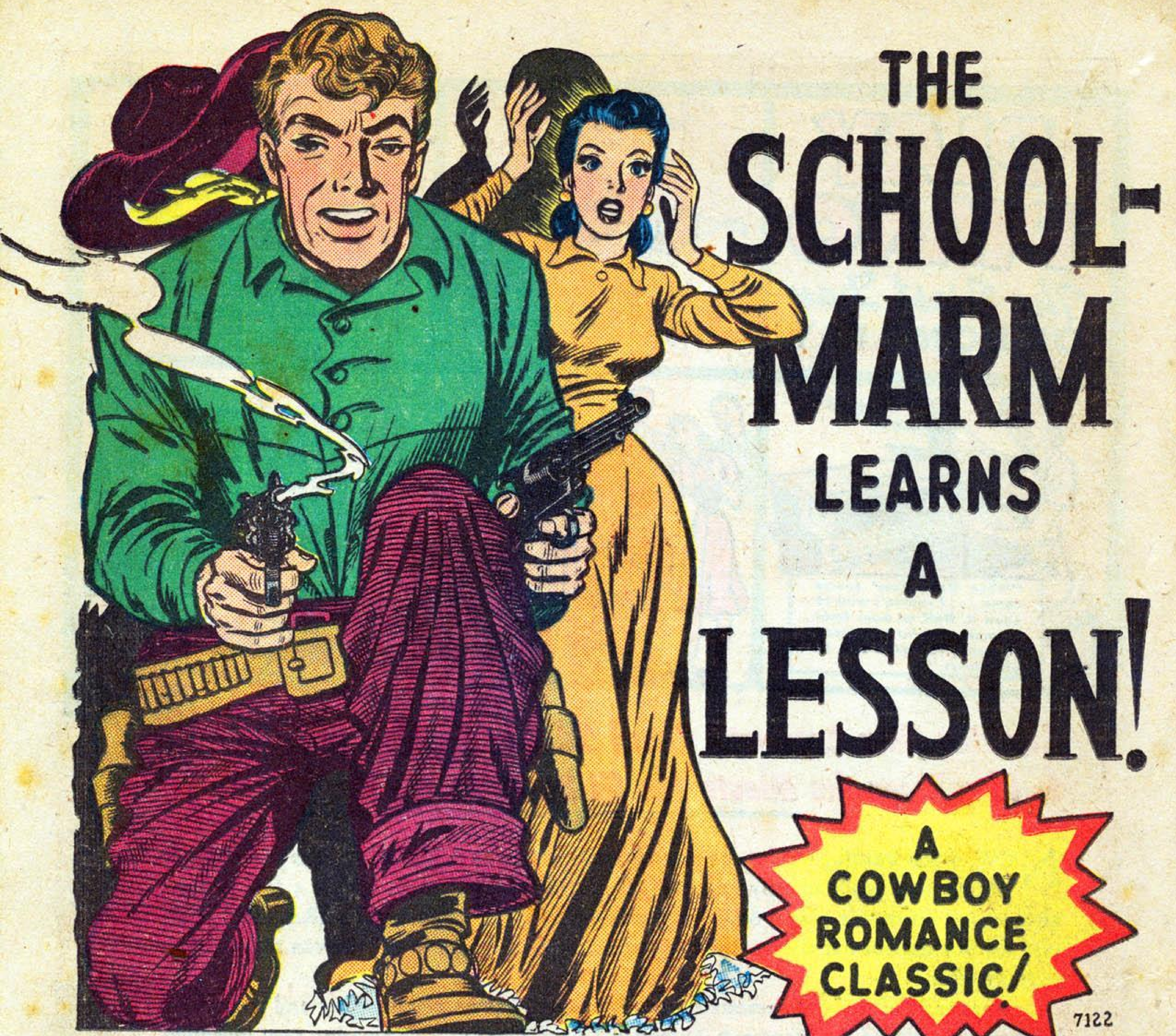
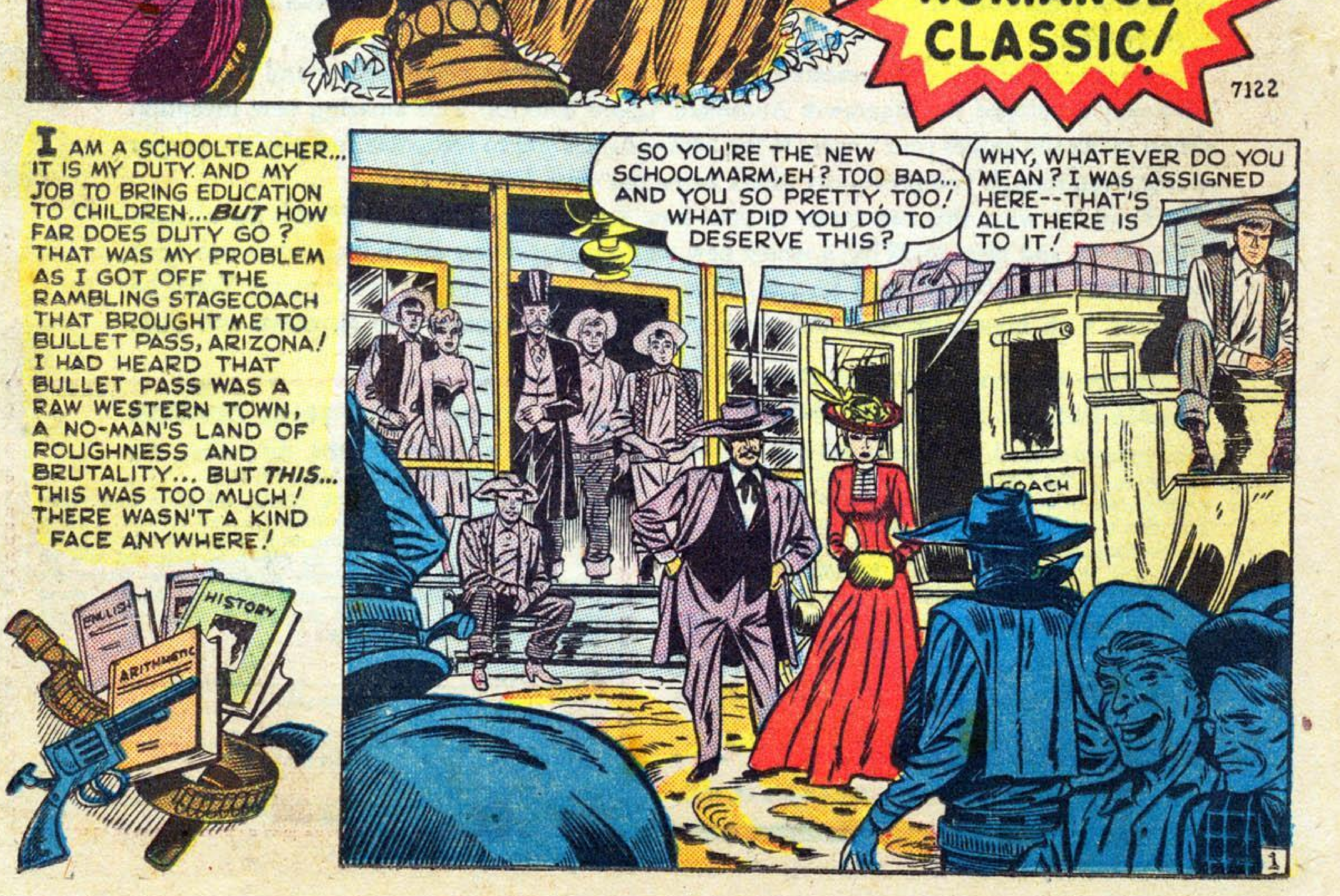
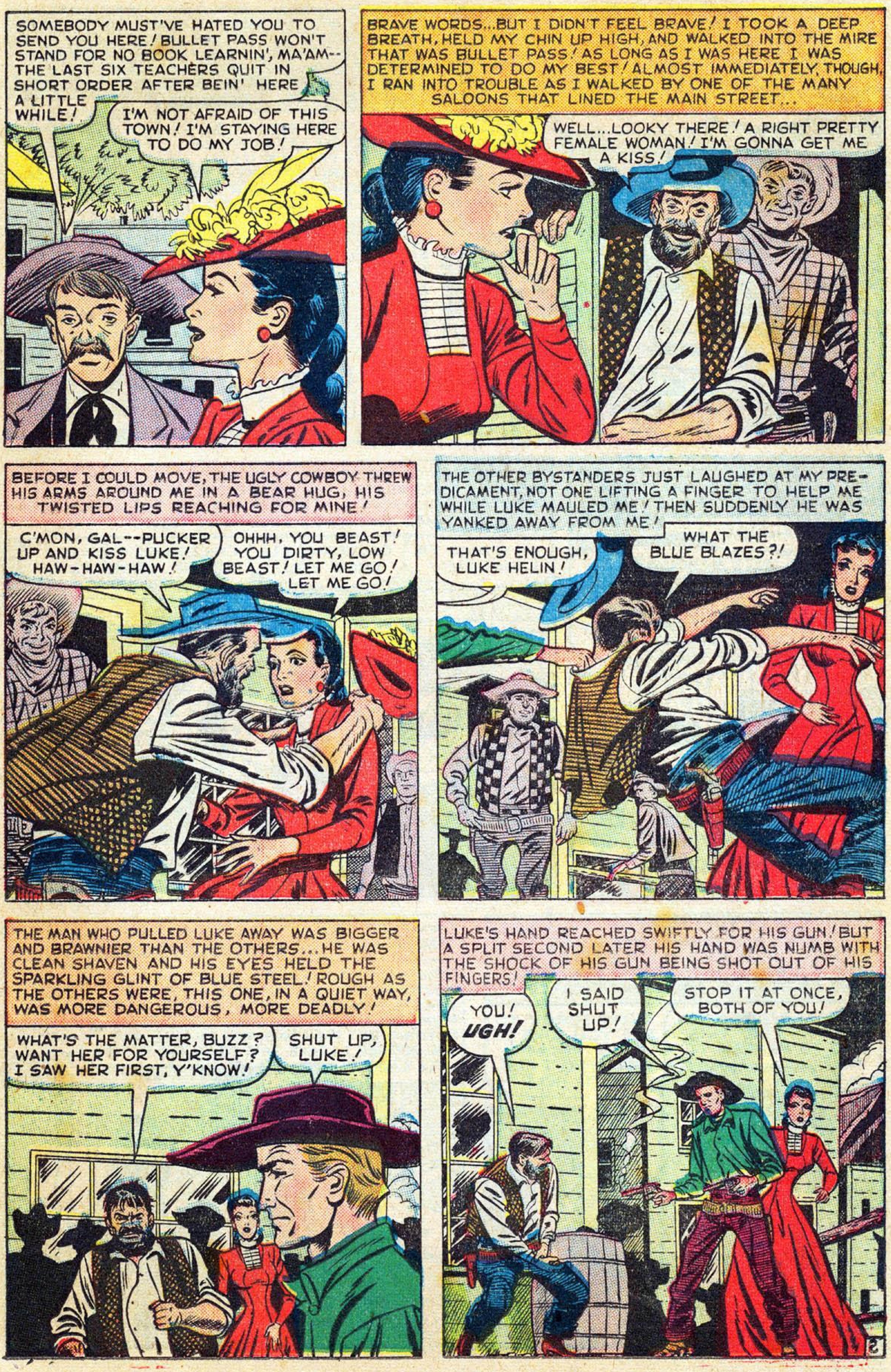
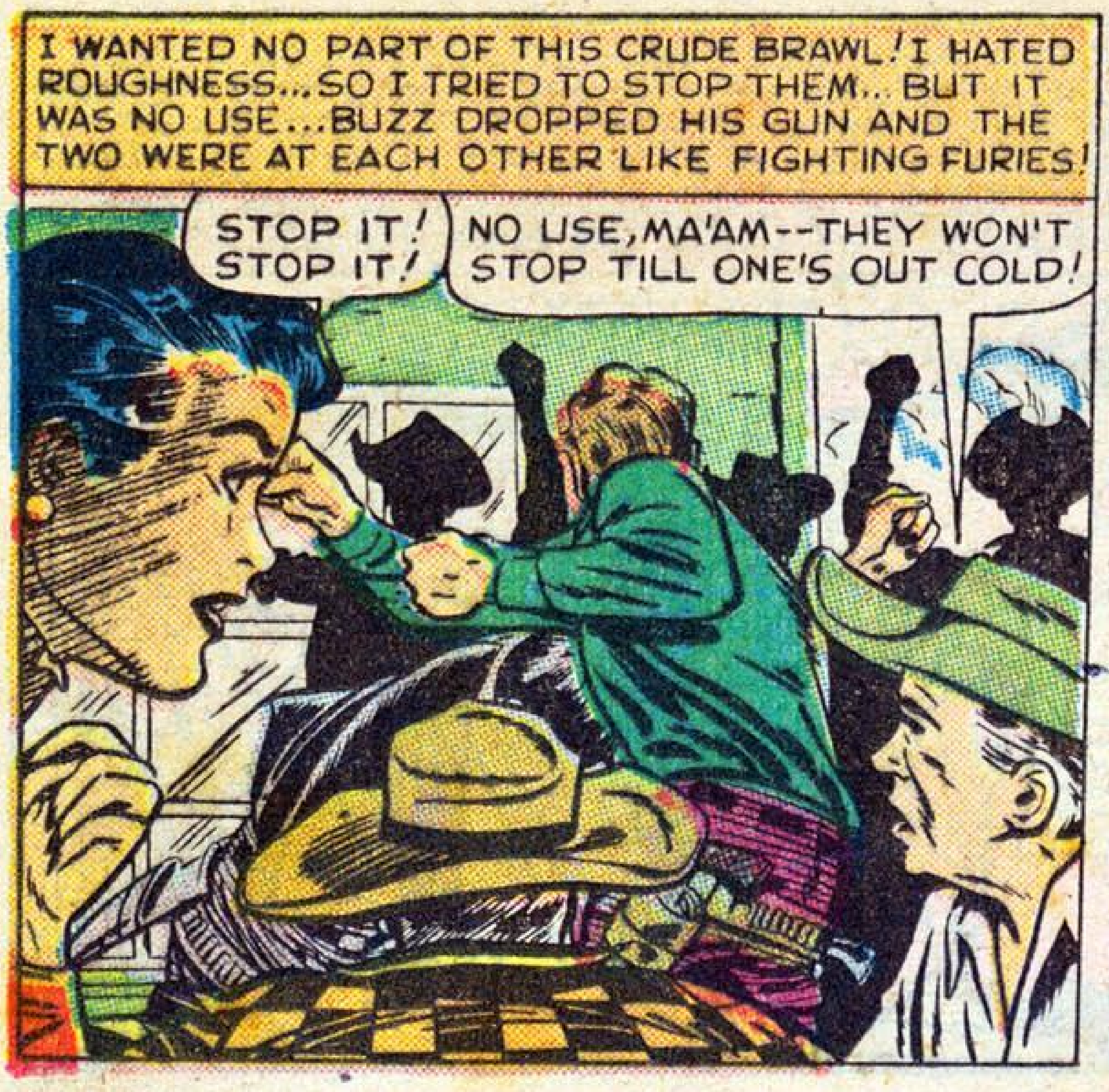
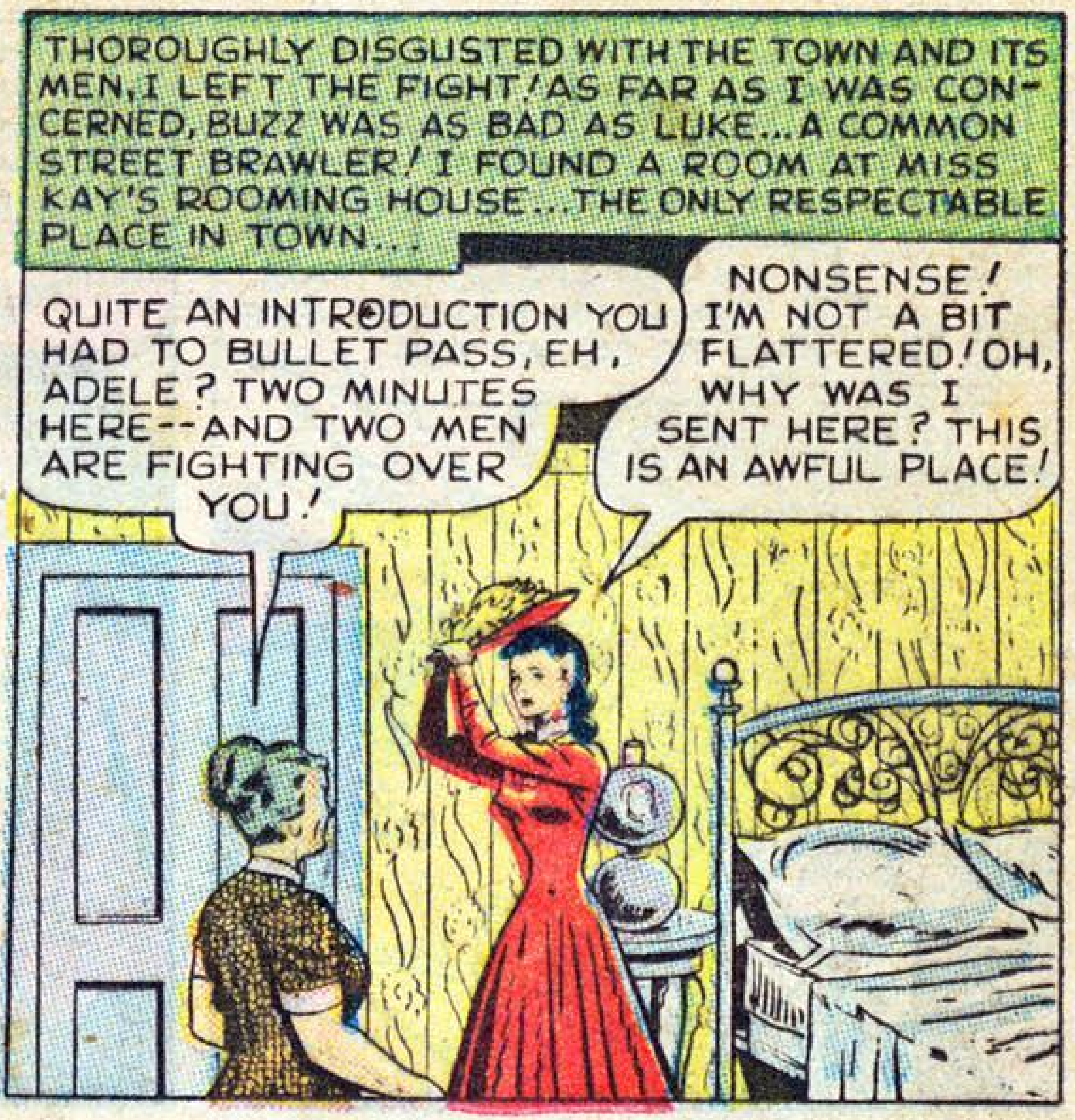
THE SCHOOL-MARM LEARNS A LESSON!

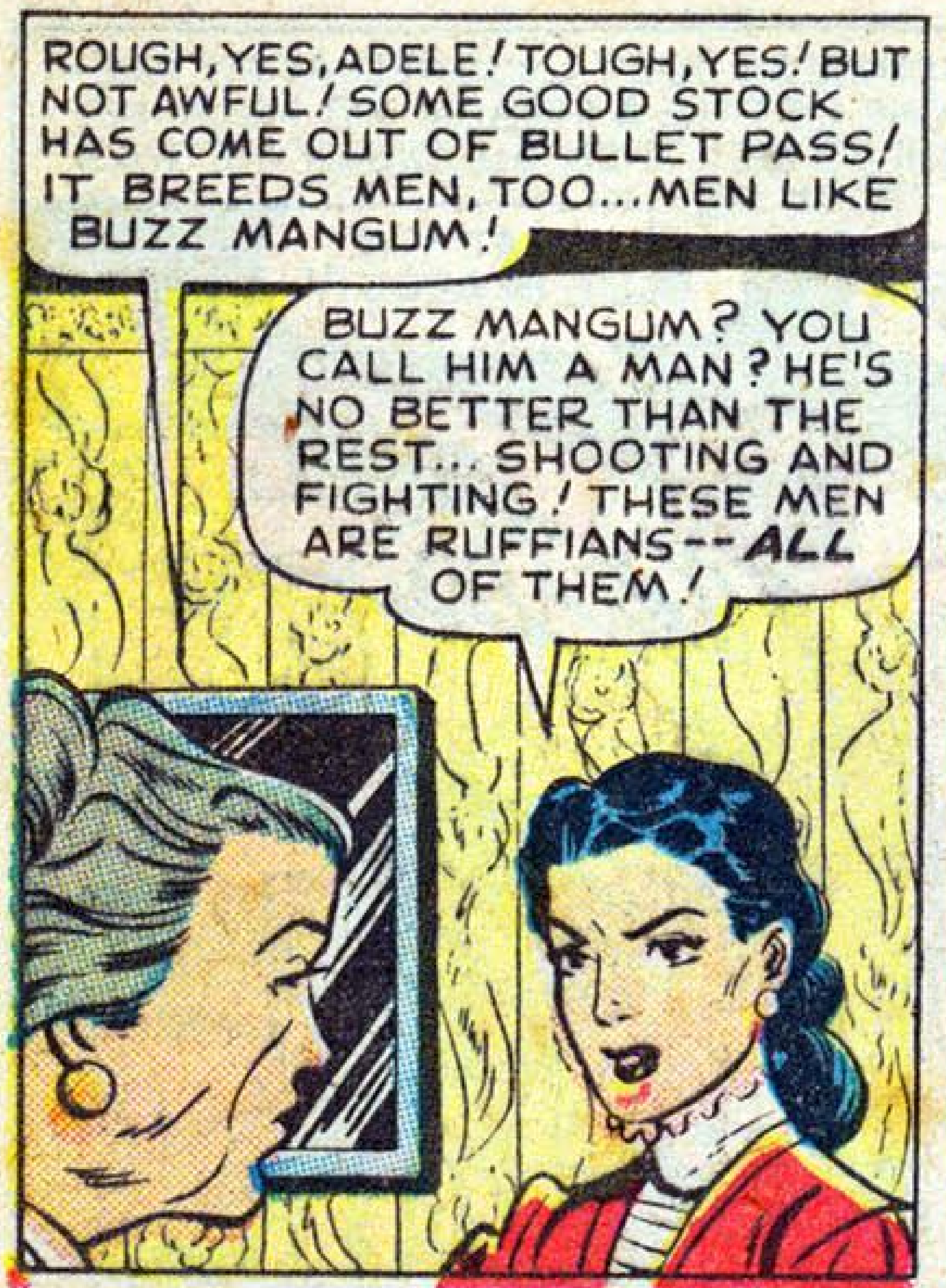

A COWBOY ROMANCE CLASSIC!
7122

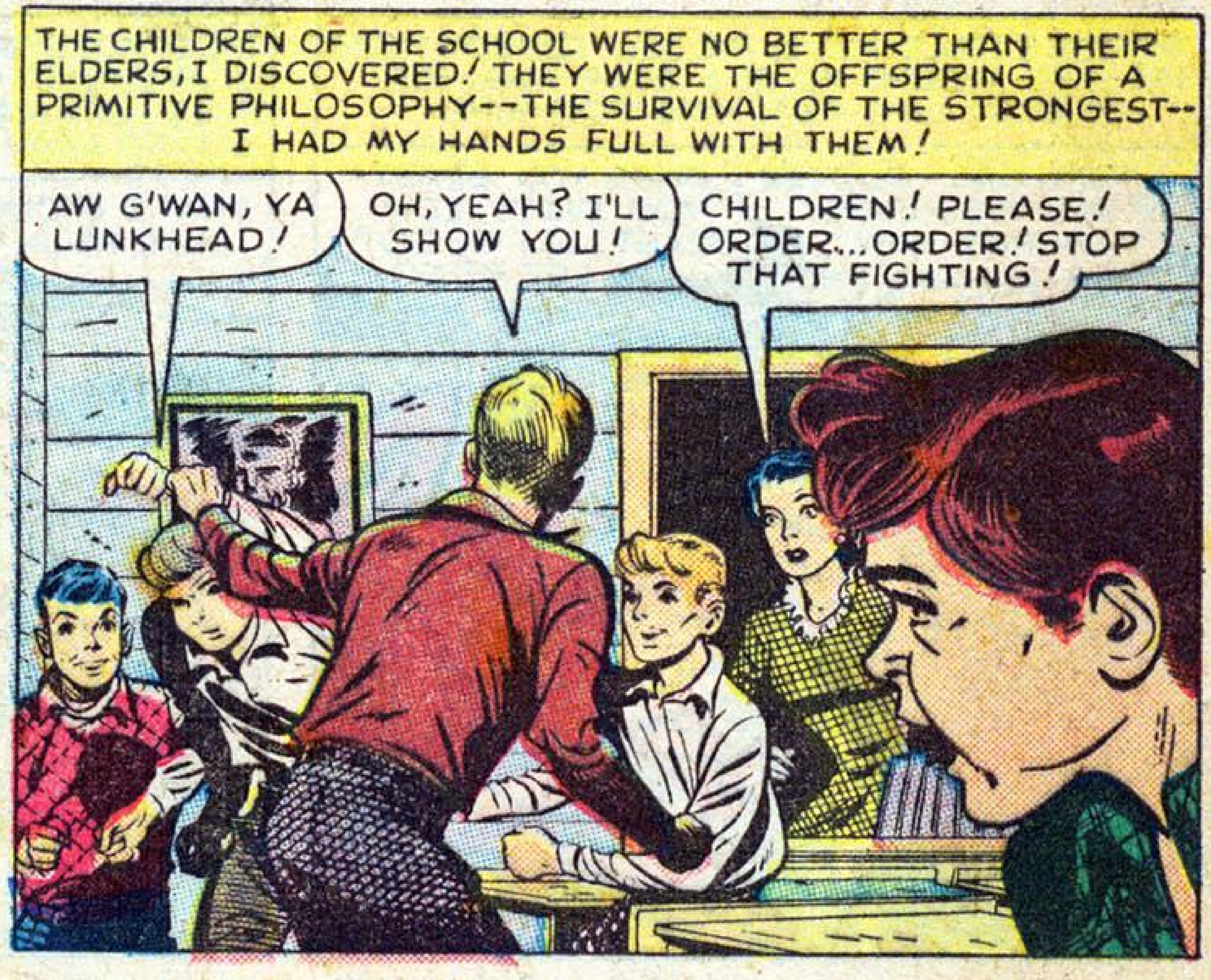

I AM A SCHOOLTEACHER... IT IS MY DUTY AND MY JOB TO BRING EDUCATION TO CHILDREN... BUT HOW FAR DOES DUTY GO? THAT WAS MY PROBLEM AS I GOT OFF THE RAMBLING STAGECOACH THAT BROUGHT ME TO BULLET PASS, ARIZONA! I HAD HEARD THAT BULLET PASS WAS A RAW WESTERN TOWN, A NO-MAN'S LAND OF ROUGHNESS AND BRUTALITY... BUT THIS... THIS WAS TOO MUCH! THERE WASN'T A KIND FACE ANYWHERE!
ENGLISH
HISTORY
ARITHMETIC
SO YOU'RE THE NEW SCHOOLMARM, EH? TOO BAD... AND YOU SO PRETTY, TOO! WHAT DID YOU DO TO DESERVE THIS?
WHY, WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN? I WAS ASSIGNED HERE--THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
COACH
1

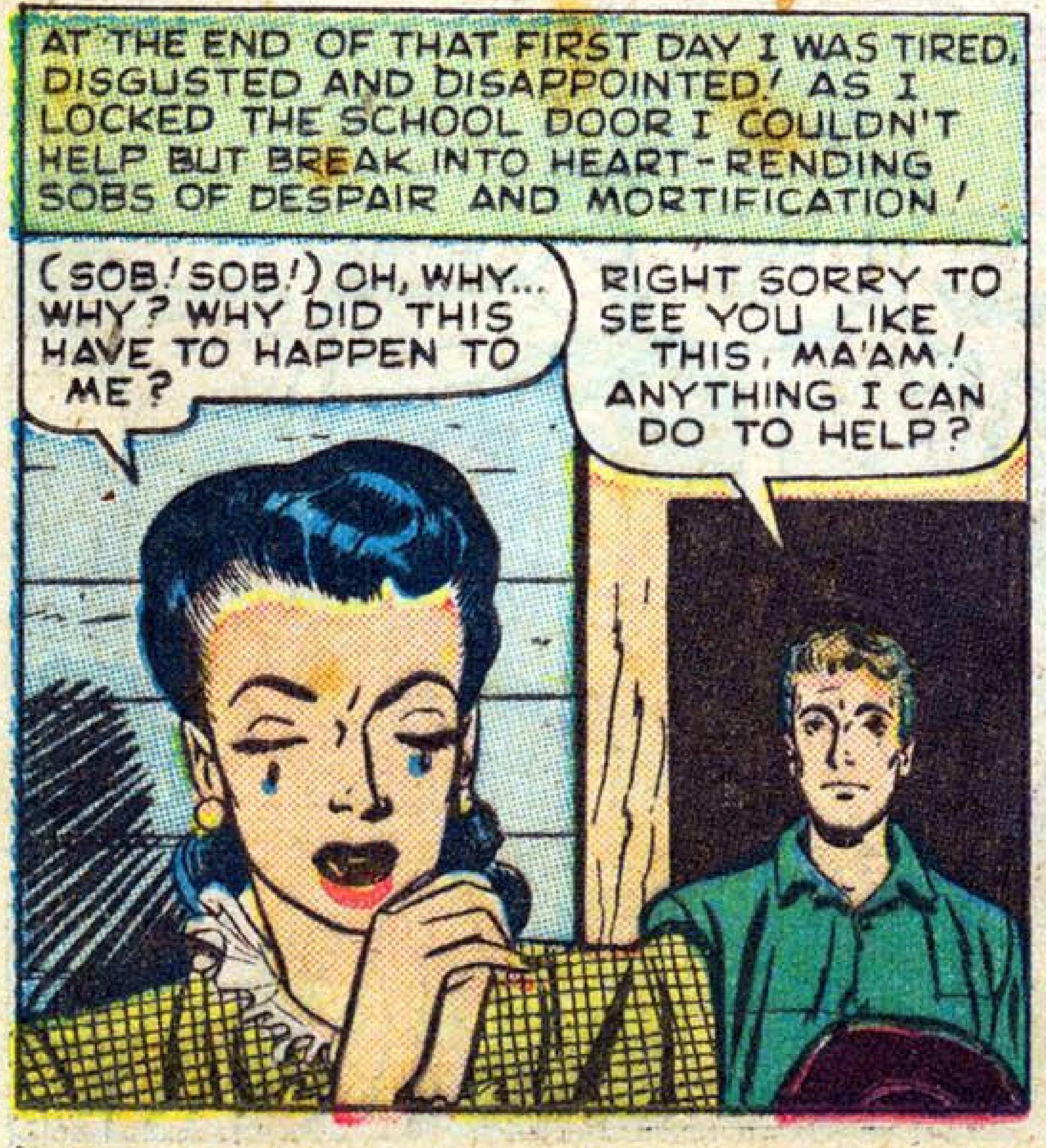

SOMEBODY MUST'VE HATED YOU TO SEND YOU HERE! BULLET PASS WON'T STAND FOR NO BOOK LEARNIN', MA'AM-- THE LAST SIX TEACHERS QUIT IN SHORT ORDER AFTER BEIN' HERE A LITTLE WHILE!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THIS TOWN! I'M STAYING HERE TO DO MY JOB!
BRAVE WORDS...BUT I DIDN'T FEEL BRAVE! I TOOK A DEEP BREATH, HELD MY CHIN UP HIGH, AND WALKED INTO THE MIRE THAT WAS BULLET PASS! AS LONG AS I WAS HERE I WAS DETERMINED TO DO MY BEST! ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THOUGH, I RAN INTO TROUBLE AS I WALKED BY ONE OF THE MANY SALOONS THAT LINED THE MAIN STREET...
WELL...LOOKY THERE! A RIGHT PRETTY FEMALE WOMAN! I'M GONNA GET ME A KISS!
BEFORE I COULD MOVE, THE UGLY COWBOY THREW HIS ARMS AROUND ME IN A BEAR HUG, HIS TWISTED LIPS REACHING FOR MINE!
C'MON, GAL--PUCKER UP AND KISS LUKE! HAW-HAW-HAW!
OHHH, YOU BEAST! YOU DIRTY, LOW BEAST! LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
THE OTHER BYSTANDERS JUST LAUGHED AT MY PREDICAMENT, NOT ONE LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP ME WHILE LUKE MAULED ME! THEN SUDDENLY HE WAS YANKED AWAY FROM ME!
THAT'S ENOUGH, LUKE HELIN!
WHAT THE BLUE BLAZES?!
THE MAN WHO PULLED LUKE AWAY WAS BIGGER AND BRAWNIER THAN THE OTHERS...HE WAS CLEAN SHAVEN AND HIS EYES HELD THE SPARKLING GLINT OF BLUE STEEL! ROUGH AS THE OTHERS WERE, THIS ONE, IN A QUIET WAY, WAS MORE DANGEROUS, MORE DEADLY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BUZZ? WANT HER FOR YOURSELF? I SAW HER FIRST, Y'KNOW!
SHUT UP, LUKE!
LUKE'S HAND REACHED SWIFTLY FOR HIS GUN! BUT A SPLIT SECOND LATER HIS HAND WAS NUMB WITH THE SHOCK OF HIS GUN BEING SHOT OUT OF HIS FINGERS!
YOU! UGH!
I SAID SHUT UP!
STOP IT AT ONCE, BOTH OF YOU!

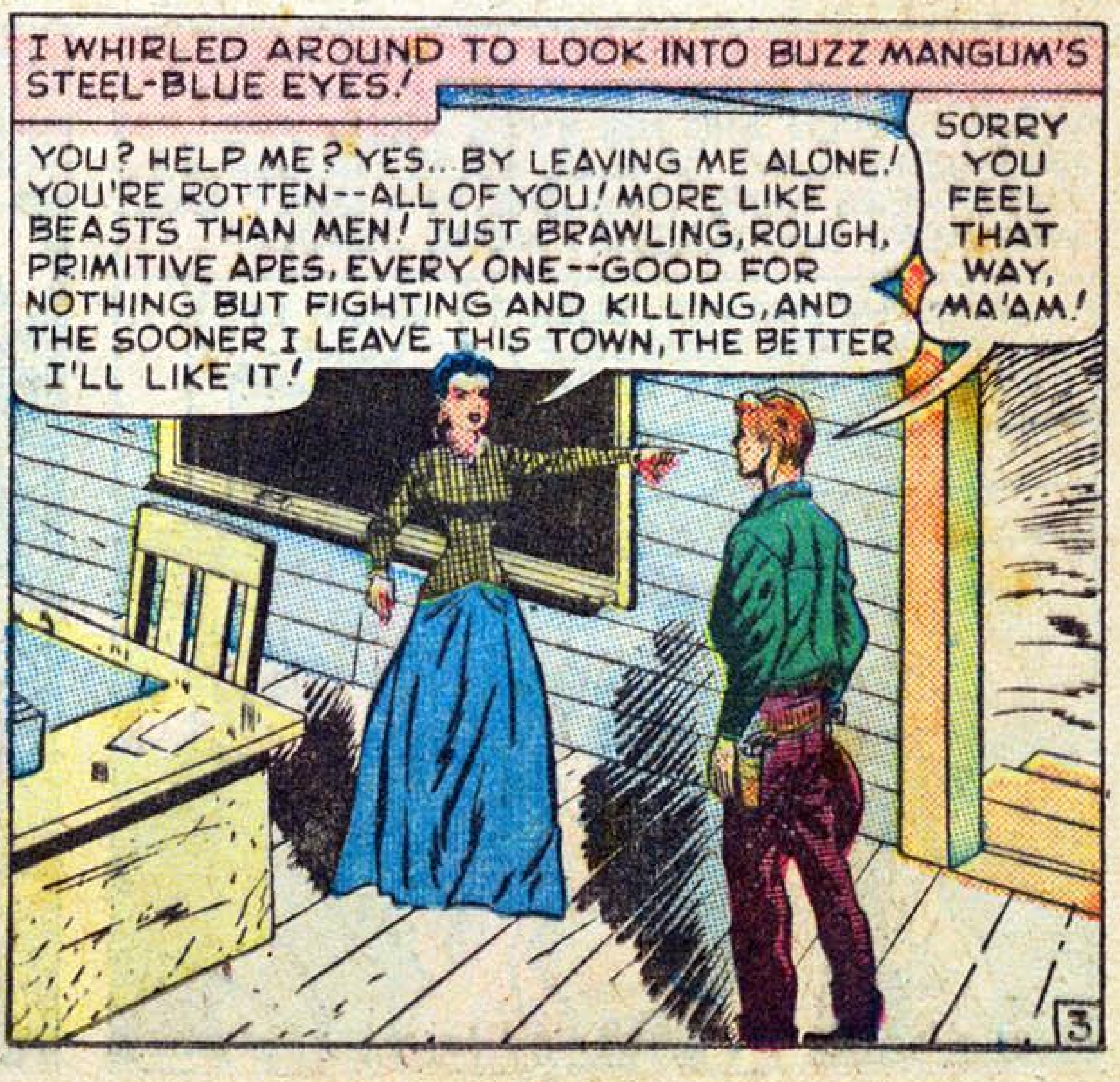

I WANTED NO PART OF THIS CRUDE BRAWL! I HATED ROUGHNESS... SO I TRIED TO STOP THEM... BUT IT WAS NO USE... BUZZ DROPPED HIS GUN AND THE TWO WERE AT EACH OTHER LIKE FIGHTING FURIES!
STOP IT! STOP IT!
NO USE, MA'AM--THEY WON'T STOP TILL ONE'S OUT COLD!

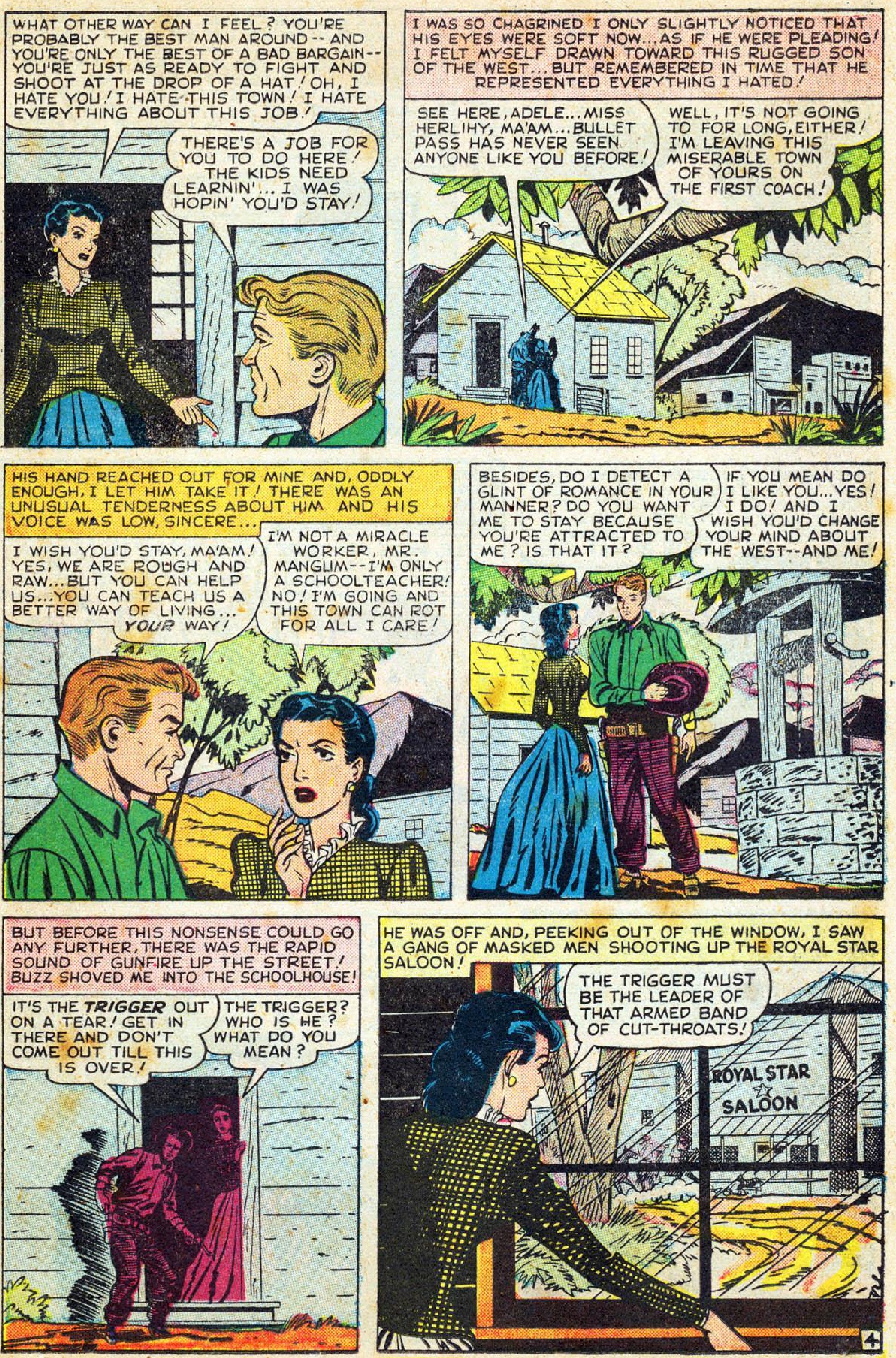

THOROUGHLY DISGUSTED WITH THE TOWN AND ITS MEN, I LEFT THE FIGHT! AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED, BUZZ WAS AS BAD AS LUKE... A COMMON STREET BRAWLER! I FOUND A ROOM AT MISS KAY'S ROOMING HOUSE... THE ONLY RESPECTABLE PLACE IN TOWN...
QUITE AN INTRODUCTION YOU HAD TO BULLET PASS, EH, ADELE? TWO MINUTES HERE--AND TWO MEN ARE FIGHTING OVER YOU!
NONSENSE! I'M NOT A BIT FLATTERED! OH, WHY WAS I SENT HERE? THIS IS AN AWFUL PLACE!

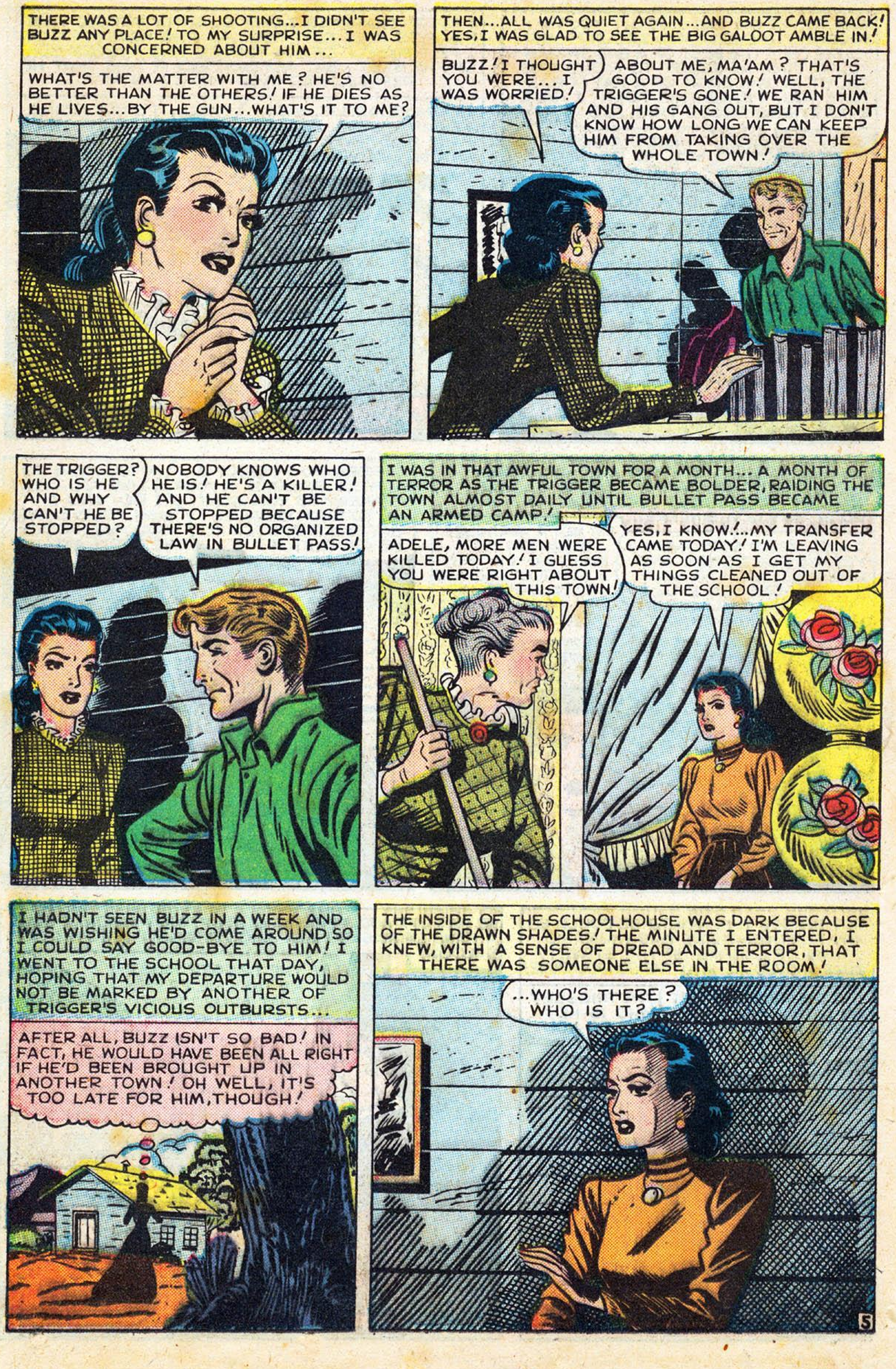

ROUGH, YES, ADELE! TOUGH, YES! BUT NOT AWFUL! SOME GOOD STOCK HAS COME OUT OF BULLET PASS! IT BREEDS MEN, TOO... MEN LIKE BUZZ MANGUM!
BUZZ MANGUM? YOU CALL HIM A MAN? HE'S NO BETTER THAN THE REST... SHOOTING AND FIGHTING! THESE MEN ARE RUFFIANS--ALL OF THEM!

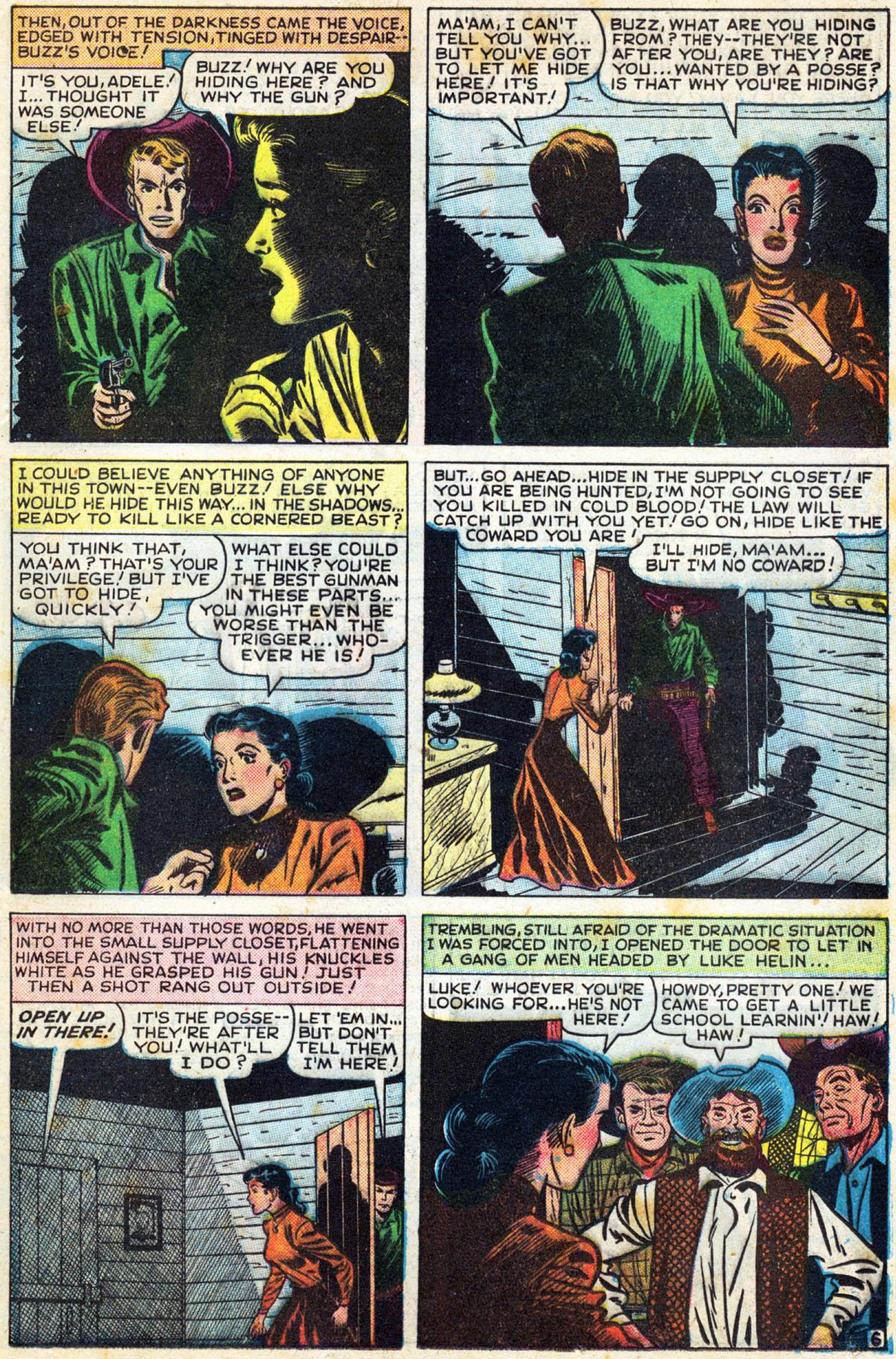

THE CHILDREN OF THE SCHOOL WERE NO BETTER THAN THEIR ELDERS, I DISCOVERED! THEY WERE THE OFFSPRING OF A PRIMITIVE PHILOSOPHY--THE SURVIVAL OF THE STRONGEST--I HAD MY HANDS FULL WITH THEM!
AW G'WAN, YA LUNKHEAD!
OH, YEAH? I'LL SHOW YOU!
CHILDREN! PLEASE! ORDER... ORDER! STOP THAT FIGHTING!


AT THE END OF THAT FIRST DAY I WAS TIRED, DISGUSTED AND DISAPPOINTED! AS I LOCKED THE SCHOOL DOOR I COULDN'T HELP BUT BREAK INTO HEART-RENDING SOBS OF DESPAIR AND MORTIFICATION!
(SOB! SOB!) OH, WHY... WHY? WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?
RIGHT SORRY TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS, MA'AM! ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

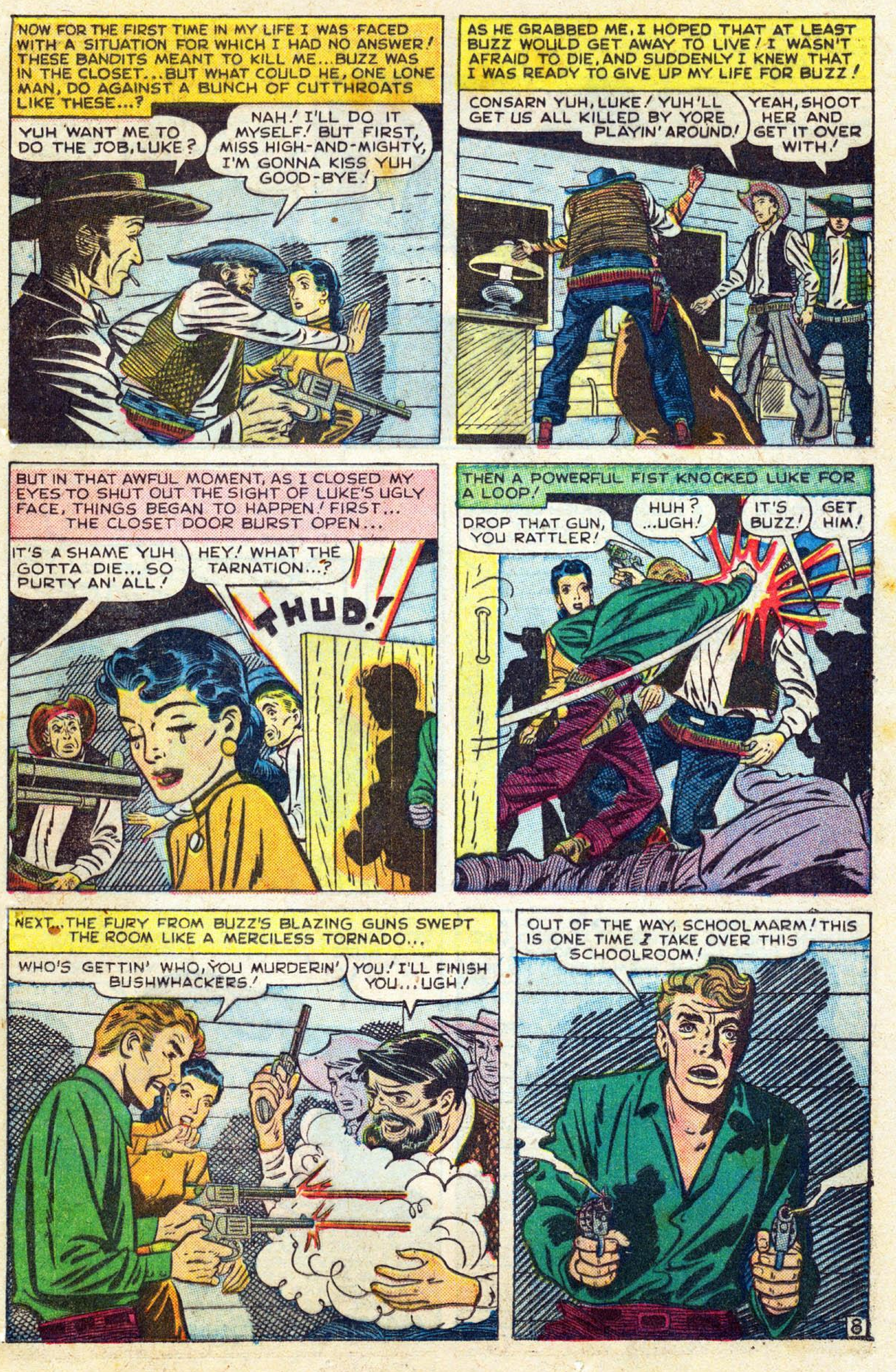

I WHIRLED AROUND TO LOOK INTO BUZZ MANGUM'S STEEL-BLUE EYES!
YOU? HELP ME? YES... BY LEAVING ME ALONE! YOU'RE ROTTEN--ALL OF YOU! MORE LIKE BEASTS THAN MEN! JUST BRAWLING, ROUGH, PRIMITIVE APES, EVERY ONE--GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT FIGHTING AND KILLING, AND THE SOONER I LEAVE THIS TOWN, THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!
SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, MA'AM!

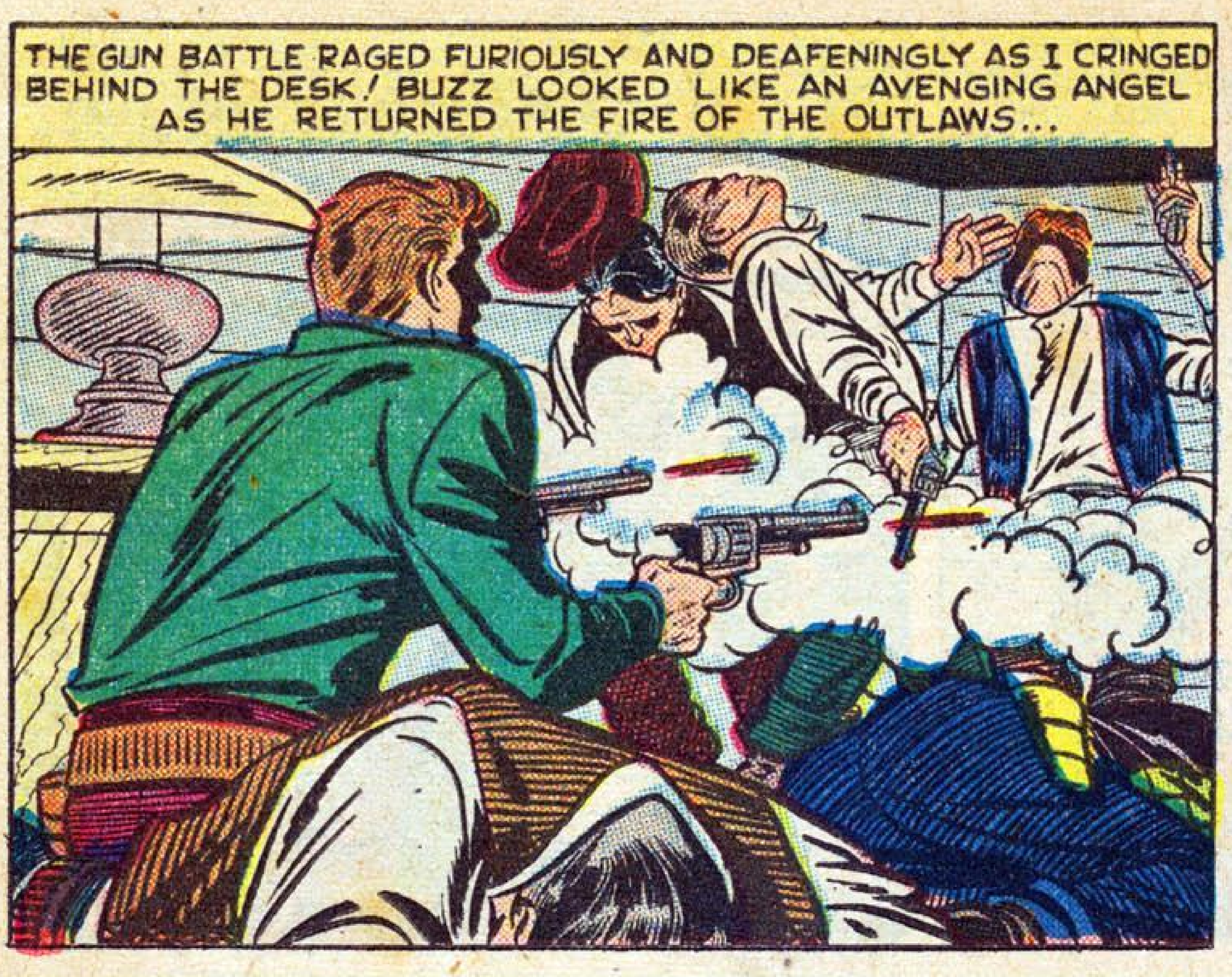

WHAT OTHER WAY CAN I FEEL? YOU'RE PROBABLY THE BEST MAN AROUND -- AND YOU'RE ONLY THE BEST OF A BAD BARGAIN -- YOU'RE JUST AS READY TO FIGHT AND SHOOT AT THE DROP OF A HAT! OH, I HATE YOU! I HATE THIS TOWN! I HATE EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS JOB!
THERE'S A JOB FOR YOU TO DO HERE! THE KIDS NEED LEARNIN'... I WAS HOPIN' YOU'D STAY!
I WAS SO CHAGRINED I ONLY SLIGHTLY NOTICED THAT HIS EYES WERE SOFT NOW... AS IF HE WERE PLEADING! I FELT MYSELF DRAWN TOWARD THIS RUGGED SON OF THE WEST... BUT REMEMBERED IN TIME THAT HE REPRESENTED EVERYTHING I HATED!
SEE HERE, ADELE... MISS HERLIHY, MA'AM... BULLET PASS HAS NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE YOU BEFORE!
WELL, IT'S NOT GOING TO FOR LONG, EITHER! I'M LEAVING THIS MISERABLE TOWN OF YOURS ON THE FIRST COACH!
HIS HAND REACHED OUT FOR MINE AND, ODDLY ENOUGH, I LET HIM TAKE IT! THERE WAS AN UNUSUAL TENDERNESS ABOUT HIM AND HIS VOICE WAS LOW, SINCERE...
I WISH YOU'D STAY, MA'AM! YES, WE ARE ROUGH AND RAW... BUT YOU CAN HELP US... YOU CAN TEACH US A BETTER WAY OF LIVING... *YOUR* WAY!
I'M NOT A MIRACLE WORKER, MR. MANGUM -- I'M ONLY A SCHOOLTEACHER! NO! I'M GOING AND THIS TOWN CAN ROT FOR ALL I CARE!
BESIDES, DO I DETECT A GLINT OF ROMANCE IN YOUR MANNER? DO YOU WANT ME TO STAY BECAUSE YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO ME? IS THAT IT?
IF YOU MEAN DO I LIKE YOU... YES! I DO! AND I WISH YOU'D CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THE WEST -- AND ME!
BUT BEFORE THIS NONSENSE COULD GO ANY FURTHER, THERE WAS THE RAPID SOUND OF GUNFIRE UP THE STREET! BUZZ SHOVED ME INTO THE SCHOOLHOUSE!
IT'S THE ***TRIGGER*** OUT ON A TEAR! GET IN THERE AND DON'T COME OUT TILL THIS IS OVER!
THE TRIGGER? WHO IS HE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE WAS OFF AND, PEEKING OUT OF THE WINDOW, I SAW A GANG OF MASKED MEN SHOOTING UP THE ROYAL STAR SALOON!
THE TRIGGER MUST BE THE LEADER OF THAT ARMED BAND OF CUT-THROATS!
ROYAL STAR SALOON

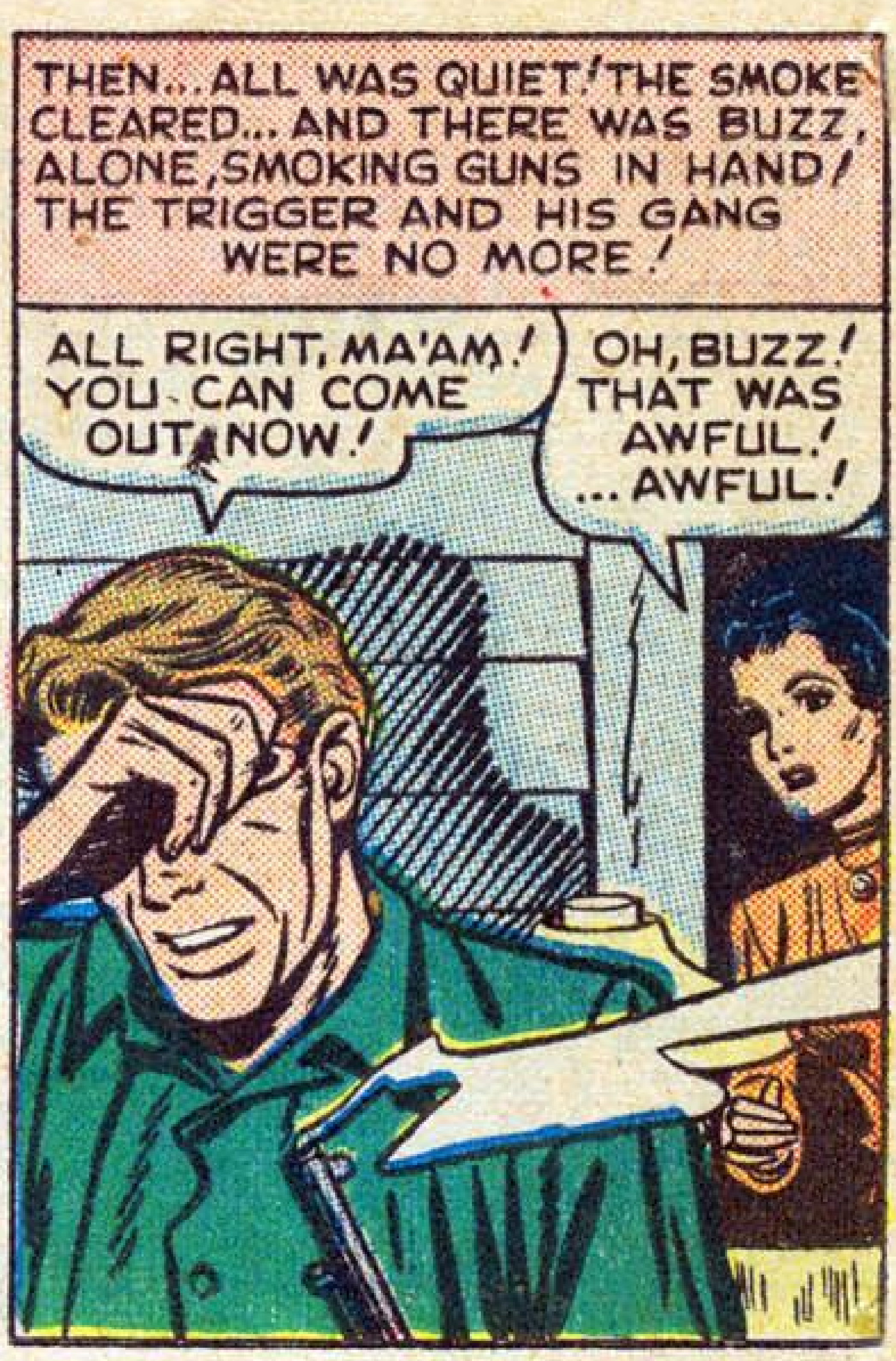

THERE WAS A LOT OF SHOOTING...I DIDN'T SEE BUZZ ANY PLACE! TO MY SURPRISE...I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIM...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? HE'S NO BETTER THAN THE OTHERS! IF HE DIES AS HE LIVES...BY THE GUN...WHAT'S IT TO ME?
THEN...ALL WAS QUIET AGAIN...AND BUZZ CAME BACK! YES, I WAS GLAD TO SEE THE BIG GALOOT AMBLE IN!
BUZZ! I THOUGHT YOU WERE... I WAS WORRIED!
ABOUT ME, MA'AM? THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW! WELL, THE TRIGGER'S GONE! WE RAN HIM AND HIS GANG OUT, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP HIM FROM TAKING OVER THE WHOLE TOWN!
THE TRIGGER? WHO IS HE AND WHY CAN'T HE BE STOPPED?
NOBODY KNOWS WHO HE IS! HE'S A KILLER! AND HE CAN'T BE STOPPED BECAUSE THERE'S NO ORGANIZED LAW IN BULLET PASS!
I WAS IN THAT AWFUL TOWN FOR A MONTH... A MONTH OF TERROR AS THE TRIGGER BECAME BOLDER, RAIDING THE TOWN ALMOST DAILY UNTIL BULLET PASS BECAME AN ARMED CAMP!
ADELE, MORE MEN WERE KILLED TODAY! I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THIS TOWN!
YES, I KNOW!...MY TRANSFER CAME TODAY! I'M LEAVING AS SOON AS I GET MY THINGS CLEANED OUT OF THE SCHOOL!
I HADN'T SEEN BUZZ IN A WEEK AND WAS WISHING HE'D COME AROUND SO I COULD SAY GOOD-BYE TO HIM! I WENT TO THE SCHOOL THAT DAY, HOPING THAT MY DEPARTURE WOULD NOT BE MARKED BY ANOTHER OF TRIGGER'S VICIOUS OUTBURSTS...
AFTER ALL, BUZZ ISN'T SO BAD! IN FACT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL RIGHT IF HE'D BEEN BROUGHT UP IN ANOTHER TOWN! OH WELL, IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM, THOUGH!
THE INSIDE OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE WAS DARK BECAUSE OF THE DRAWN SHADES! THE MINUTE I ENTERED, I KNEW, WITH A SENSE OF DREAD AND TERROR, THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE IN THE ROOM!
...WHO'S THERE? WHO IS IT?

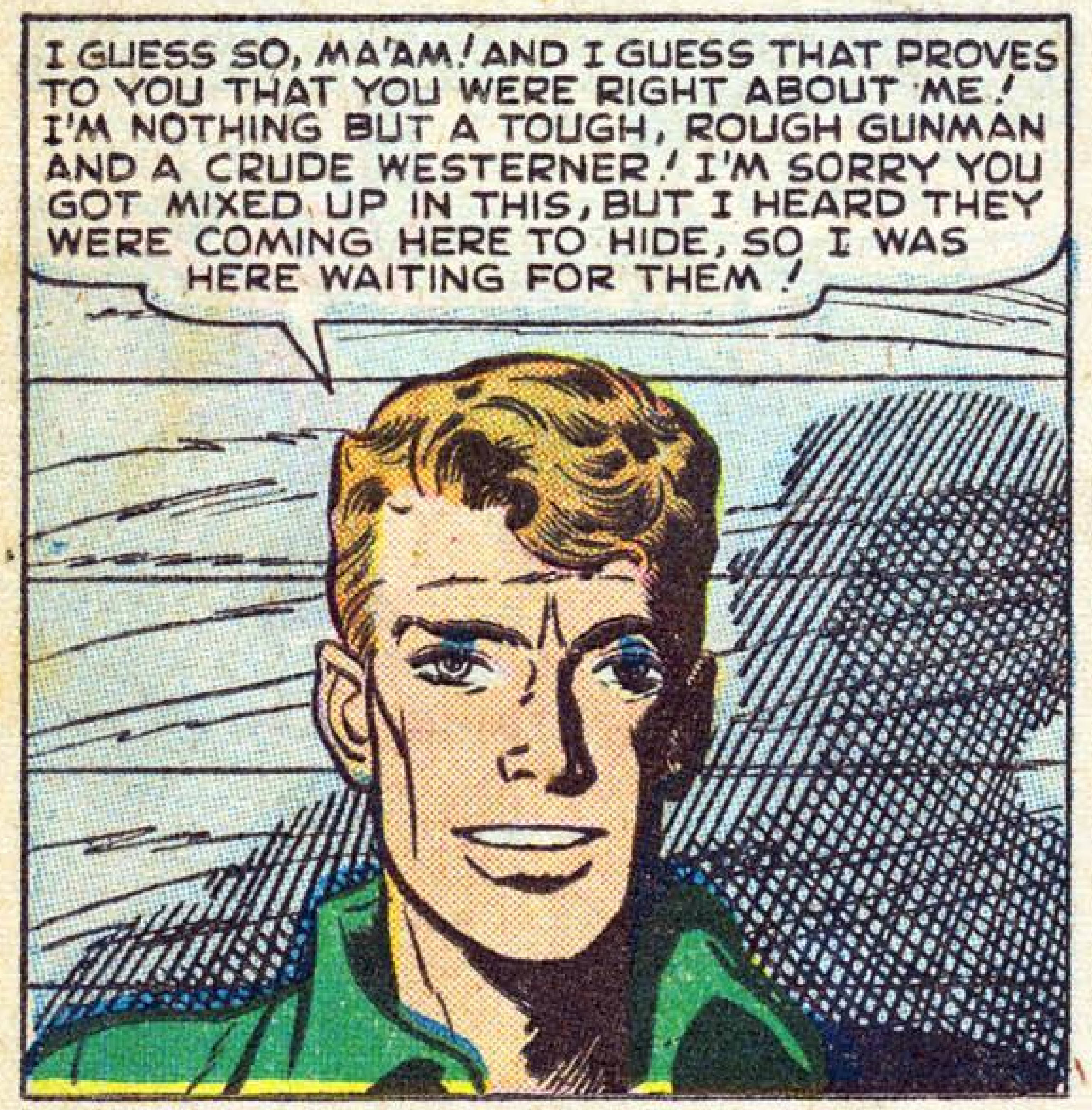

THEN, OUT OF THE DARKNESS CAME THE VOICE, EDGED WITH TENSION, TINGED WITH DESPAIR--BUZZ'S VOICE!
IT'S YOU, ADELE! I... THOUGHT IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE!
BUZZ! WHY ARE YOU HIDING HERE? AND WHY THE GUN?
MA'AM, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY... BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME HIDE HERE! IT'S IMPORTANT!
BUZZ, WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM? THEY--THEY'RE NOT AFTER YOU, ARE THEY? ARE YOU... WANTED BY A POSSE? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HIDING?
I COULD BELIEVE ANYTHING OF ANYONE IN THIS TOWN--EVEN BUZZ! ELSE WHY WOULD HE HIDE THIS WAY... IN THE SHADOWS... READY TO KILL LIKE A CORNERED BEAST?
YOU THINK THAT, MA'AM? THAT'S YOUR PRIVILEGE! BUT I'VE GOT TO HIDE, QUICKLY!
WHAT ELSE COULD I THINK? YOU'RE THE BEST GUNMAN IN THESE PARTS... YOU MIGHT EVEN BE WORSE THAN THE TRIGGER... WHOEVER HE IS!
BUT... GO AHEAD... HIDE IN THE SUPPLY CLOSET! IF YOU ARE BEING HUNTED, I'M NOT GOING TO SEE YOU KILLED IN COLD BLOOD! THE LAW WILL CATCH UP WITH YOU YET! GO ON, HIDE LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE!
I'LL HIDE, MA'AM... BUT I'M NO COWARD!
WITH NO MORE THAN THOSE WORDS, HE WENT INTO THE SMALL SUPPLY CLOSET, FLATTENING HIMSELF AGAINST THE WALL, HIS KNUCKLES WHITE AS HE GRASPED HIS GUN! JUST THEN A SHOT RANG OUT OUTSIDE!
OPEN UP IN THERE!
IT'S THE POSSE--THEY'RE AFTER YOU! WHAT'LL I DO?
LET 'EM IN... BUT DON'T TELL THEM I'M HERE!
TREMBLING, STILL AFRAID OF THE DRAMATIC SITUATION I WAS FORCED INTO, I OPENED THE DOOR TO LET IN A GANG OF MEN HEADED BY LUKE HELIN...
LUKE! WHOEVER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR... HE'S NOT HERE!
HOWDY, PRETTY ONE! WE CAME TO GET A LITTLE SCHOOL LEARNIN'! HAW! HAW!

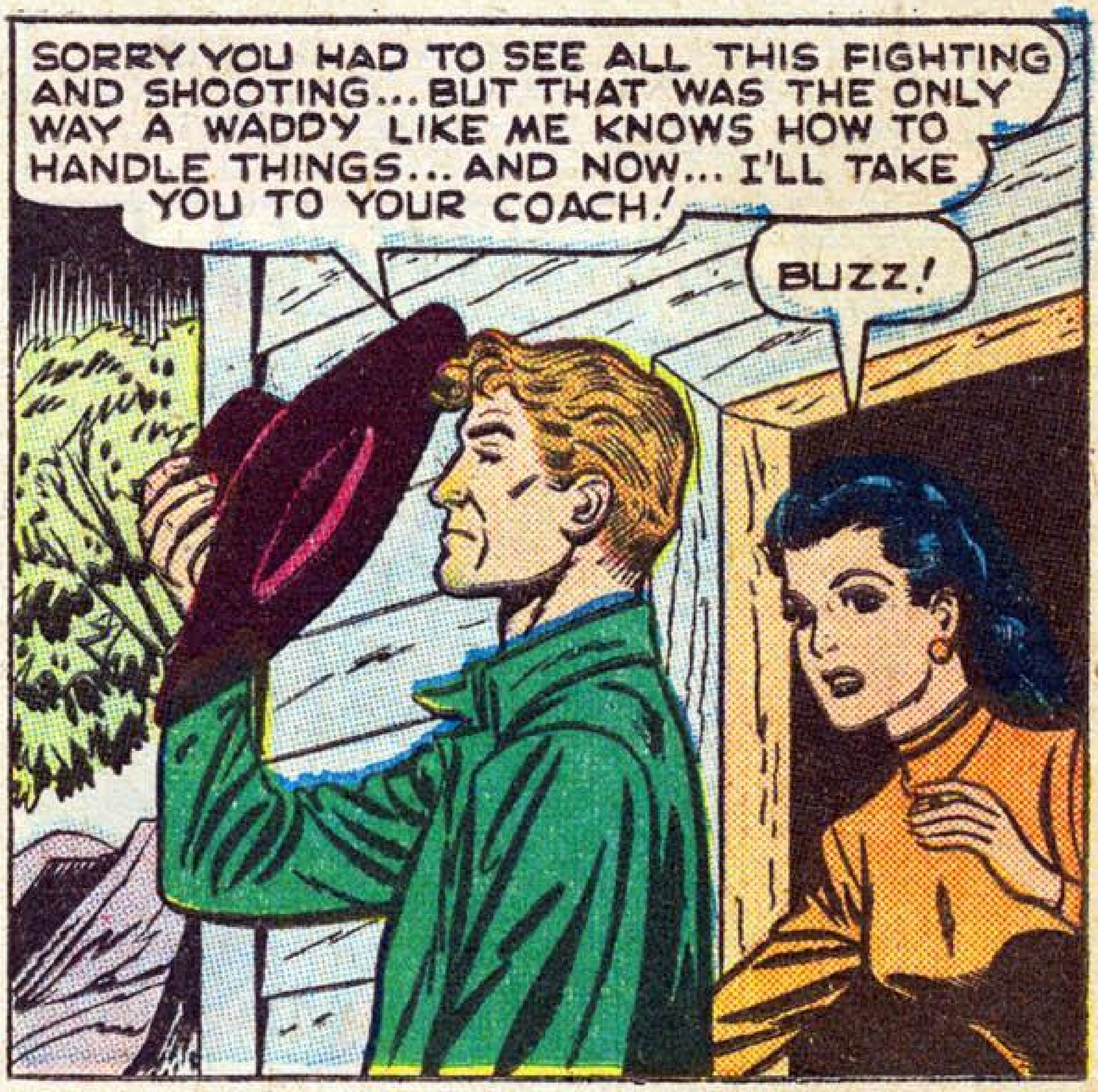
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE LUKE AT THE HEAD OF THE POSSE! BUT THAT DIDN'T CONCERN ME-- I WAS GOING TO GET OUT OF TOWN AND LEAVE ALL THIS BEHIND ME FOREVER!
WHERE YOU GOIN', FILLY?
AWAY! YOU WILD MEN CAN SHOOT EACH OTHER ALL DAY FOR ALL I CARE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BULLET PASS AND ITS KILLINGS!
I...THOUGHT THERE WAS ONE MAN WHO WAS DIFFERENT... IN FACT I ALMOST LOVED HIM... BUT NOW I KNOW THAT HE'S AS BAD, IF NOT WORSE THAN THE REST!...JUST AN OUTLAW AND NOT WORTH BOTHERING ABOUT... SO... GOOD-BYE!
WHY, ADELE... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED ABOUT ME THAT WAY... C'MERE!
CARE ABOUT *YOU*? WHAT ON EARTH GAVE YOU THAT CRAZY IDEA?
YOU SAID YOU LOVED AN OUTLAW, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, HONEY, I'M THE ONLY OUTLAW IN THESE PARTS! I'M THE TRIGGER!
SHUT UP, **LUKE**, YUH FOOL!
YOU...YOU THE TRIGGER? OH! MY GOODNESS!
SURE, SWEETIE-PIE! AN' AS LONG AS YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME, I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY HIDEOUT IN THE HILLS!
LUKE! YUH GONE LOCO?
SHUT UP, PETE! I'M STILL THE BOSS! YOU MEN WATCH THE WINDOWS--SHOOT TO KILL ANYONE WHO COMES NEAR THE SCHOOL!
YOU BIG APE! I DON'T CARE TWO PINS ABOUT YOU! I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!
SLOWLY LUKE TURNED TOWARD ME! HIS LITTLE BLACK EYES WERE FILLED WITH EVIL! I SAW HIM THEN AS THE KILLER HE REALLY WAS...
IN THAT CASE--THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR ME TO DO!
KILL HER, LUKE! SHE KNOWS TOO MUCH... WITH HER ALIVE NONE OF US ARE SAFE!

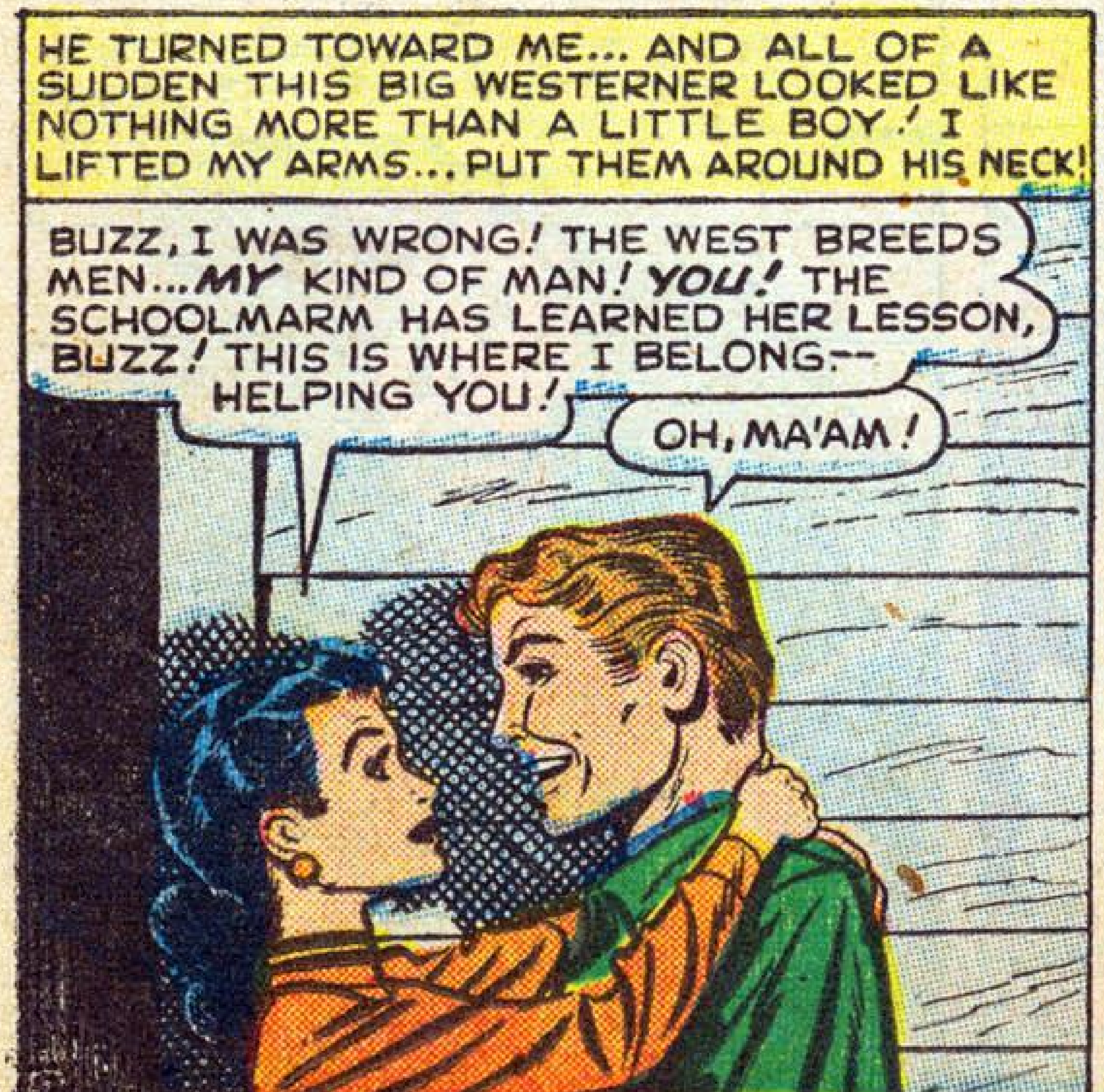

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS FACED WITH A SITUATION FOR WHICH I HAD NO ANSWER! THESE BANDITS MEANT TO KILL ME...BUZZ WAS IN THE CLOSET...BUT WHAT COULD HE, ONE LONE MAN, DO AGAINST A BUNCH OF CUTTHROATS LIKE THESE...?
YUH WANT ME TO DO THE JOB, LUKE?
NAH! I'LL DO IT MYSELF! BUT FIRST, MISS HIGH-AND-MIGHTY, I'M GONNA KISS YUH GOOD-BYE!
AS HE GRABBED ME, I HOPED THAT AT LEAST BUZZ WOULD GET AWAY TO LIVE! I WASN'T AFRAID TO DIE, AND SUDDENLY I KNEW THAT I WAS READY TO GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR BUZZ!
CONSARN YUH, LUKE! YUH'LL GET US ALL KILLED BY YORE PLAYIN' AROUND!
YEAH, SHOOT HER AND GET IT OVER WITH!
BUT IN THAT AWFUL MOMENT, AS I CLOSED MY EYES TO SHUT OUT THE SIGHT OF LUKE'S UGLY FACE, THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN! FIRST... THE CLOSET DOOR BURST OPEN...
IT'S A SHAME YUH GOTTA DIE... SO PURTY AN' ALL!
HEY! WHAT THE TARNATION...?
THUD!
THEN A POWERFUL FIST KNOCKED LUKE FOR A LOOP!
DROP THAT GUN, YOU RATTLER!
HUH? ...UGH!
IT'S BUZZ!
GET HIM!
NEXT...THE FURY FROM BUZZ'S BLAZING GUNS SWEPT THE ROOM LIKE A MERCILESS TORNADO...
WHO'S GETTIN' WHO, YOU MURDERIN' BUSHWHACKERS!
YOU! I'LL FINISH YOU...UGH!
OUT OF THE WAY, SCHOOLMARM! THIS IS ONE TIME I TAKE OVER THIS SCHOOLROOM!

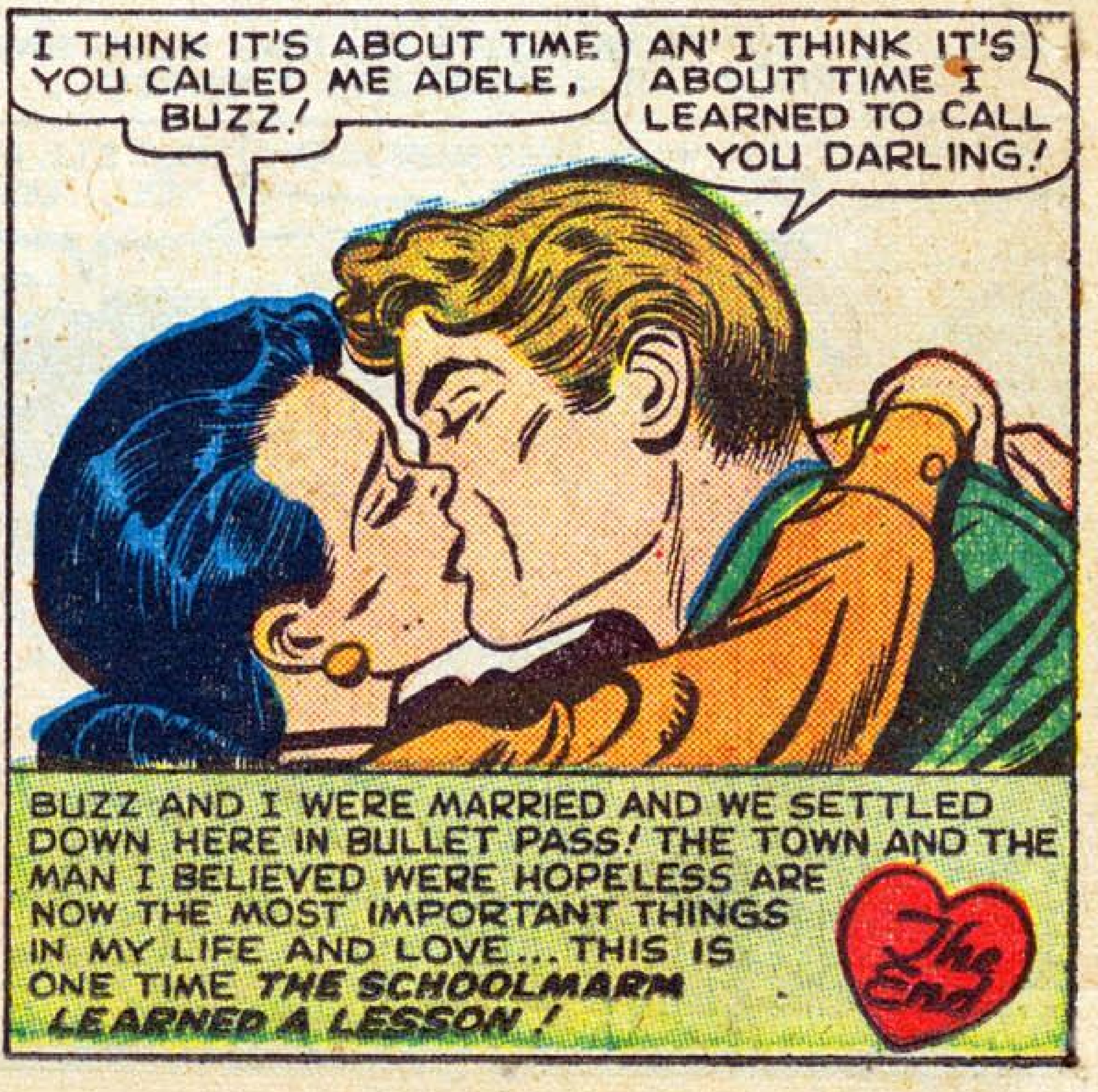

THE GUN BATTLE RAGED FURIOUSLY AND DEAFENINGLY AS I CRINGED BEHIND THE DESK! BUZZ LOOKED LIKE AN AVENGING ANGEL AS HE RETURNED THE FIRE OF THE OUTLAWS...


THEN... ALL WAS QUIET! THE SMOKE CLEARED... AND THERE WAS BUZZ, ALONE, SMOKING GUNS IN HAND! THE TRIGGER AND HIS GANG WERE NO MORE!
ALL RIGHT, MA'AM! YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!
OH, BUZZ! THAT WAS AWFUL! ...AWFUL!


I GUESS SO, MA'AM! AND I GUESS THAT PROVES TO YOU THAT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME! I'M NOTHING BUT A TOUGH, ROUGH GUNMAN AND A CRUDE WESTERNER! I'M SORRY YOU GOT MIXED UP IN THIS, BUT I HEARD THEY WERE COMING HERE TO HIDE, SO I WAS HERE WAITING FOR THEM!


SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ALL THIS FIGHTING AND SHOOTING... BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY A WADDY LIKE ME KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE THINGS... AND NOW... I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR COACH!
BUZZ!


HE TURNED TOWARD ME... AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS BIG WESTERNER LOOKED LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN A LITTLE BOY! I LIFTED MY ARMS... PUT THEM AROUND HIS NECK!
BUZZ, I WAS WRONG! THE WEST BREEDS MEN... MY KIND OF MAN! YOU! THE SCHOOLMARM HAS LEARNED HER LESSON, BUZZ! THIS IS WHERE I BELONG-- HELPING YOU!
OH, MA'AM!


I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CALLED ME ADELE, BUZZ!
AN' I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I LEARNED TO CALL YOU DARLING!
BUZZ AND I WERE MARRIED AND WE SETTLED DOWN HERE IN BULLET PASS! THE TOWN AND THE MAN I BELIEVED WERE HOPELESS ARE NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN MY LIFE AND LOVE... THIS IS ONE TIME THE SCHOOLMARM LEARNED A LESSON!
The End

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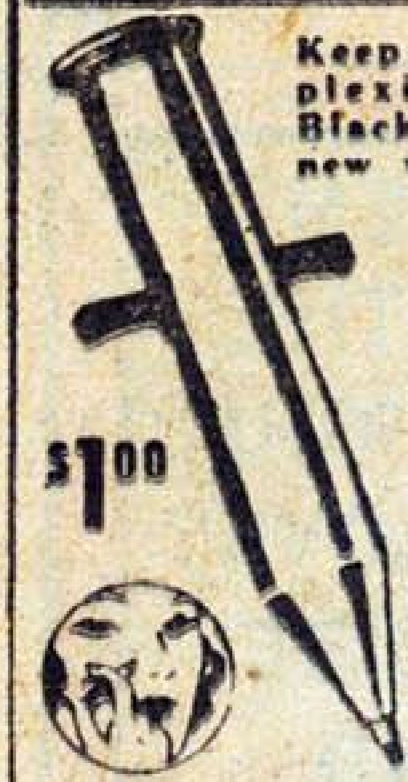

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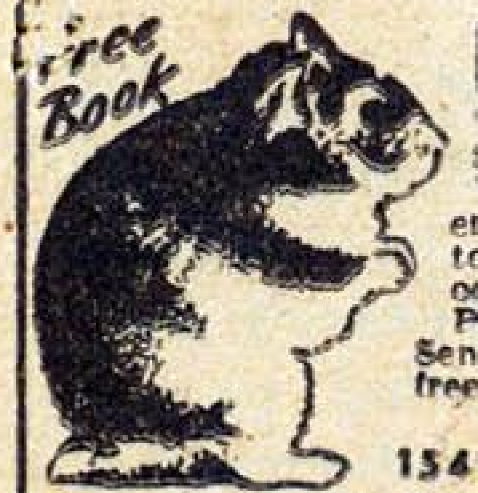

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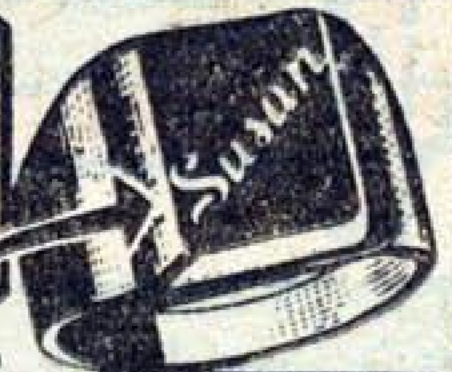

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Keeping Pop from Popping!

Dear Editors,

My father keeps sitting around the living room all evening, whenever I have a boy in to call on me. Not only that, but he usually wears his old work-clothes, and sometimes I'm really ashamed of how he looks and talks. Pop means well, but he doesn't realize that his old jokes aren't funny to us. Besides, we'd like some time to ourselves—to chat about school and dates and things. There's nothing wrong with that, is there?

M. B. R.
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear M. B. R.,

It will take careful maneuvering to make your father understand, without hurting his feelings, that too much attention from him is unwelcome—also that his apparel is not always appropriate to the presence of a guest. How about giving him an attractive sport shirt for his birthday or Christmas, and laughingly calling it his "date" shirt? Or perhaps you could, on nights when you expect a caller, bring him a pocket book edition of a good detective story, or whatever type of reading he likes!

Green Eyes in Arizona . . .

Dear Editors,

Alec, a handsome redhead, has been my steady boy friend for a year now, and I just can't seem to get over being jealous every time he dances with or even talks to another girl.
But tell me this—just where does genuine interest stop and jealousy begin? My feelings seem to be all mixed up about this.

E. L. T.
Snowflake, Ariz.

Dear E. L. T.,

The town you live in sounds so cool and calm—try to get a little of that atmosphere into your own feelings, won't you? If you are perfectly certain that Alec cares as much for you as you do for him—if he has appeared sincere and honest in his dealings with you—then relax, and let things take their natural course. We're glad you caught the danger signal yourself, and know that you are exaggerating his small, polite attentions to other girls Try to THINK FIRST, and, almost always, you'll dismiss the threatening feelings of jealousy as immature and unworthy of you!

All Aboard . . .

Dear Editors,

I've never been *anywhere* and it seems to me that Henry K., the boy I'm so serious about, has been just *everywhere*. He is the only child and traveled with his parents on business all his life. I've tried reading, but can't even begin to catch up with him. Do you think he regards me as a "dummy" because I've never seen the Grand Canyon or crossed an ocean?

E. T. D.
Putney, Vt.

Dear E. T. D.,

On the contrary! You don't know it, but your "untraveled" background is the very instrument to increase Henry's love for you. Any normal person loves to impart information. And if the listener happens to be a girl he likes, so much the better. One of the reasons he loves you may be because you make such a good listener!

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One day, the two boys quarrelled over the location of a site for their proposed city of Rome. Romulus set up the boundaries on the site where he and his brother were cast ashore years before. Remus did not like the location and made fun of the boundary wall set up by Romulus and leaped over it. In heated anger, Romulus struck and slew his brother and immediately regretted it.

Some time later after the city of Rome was started, Romulus was holding a review of his army when suddenly the skies grew dark and a storm fell upon them. The people fled in terror. When the storm was over and the people returned, Romulus was not to be found. The belief of the people was that during the darkness, thunder and lightning of the storm, Romulus' father Mars, carried him off to the dwelling place of the gods.

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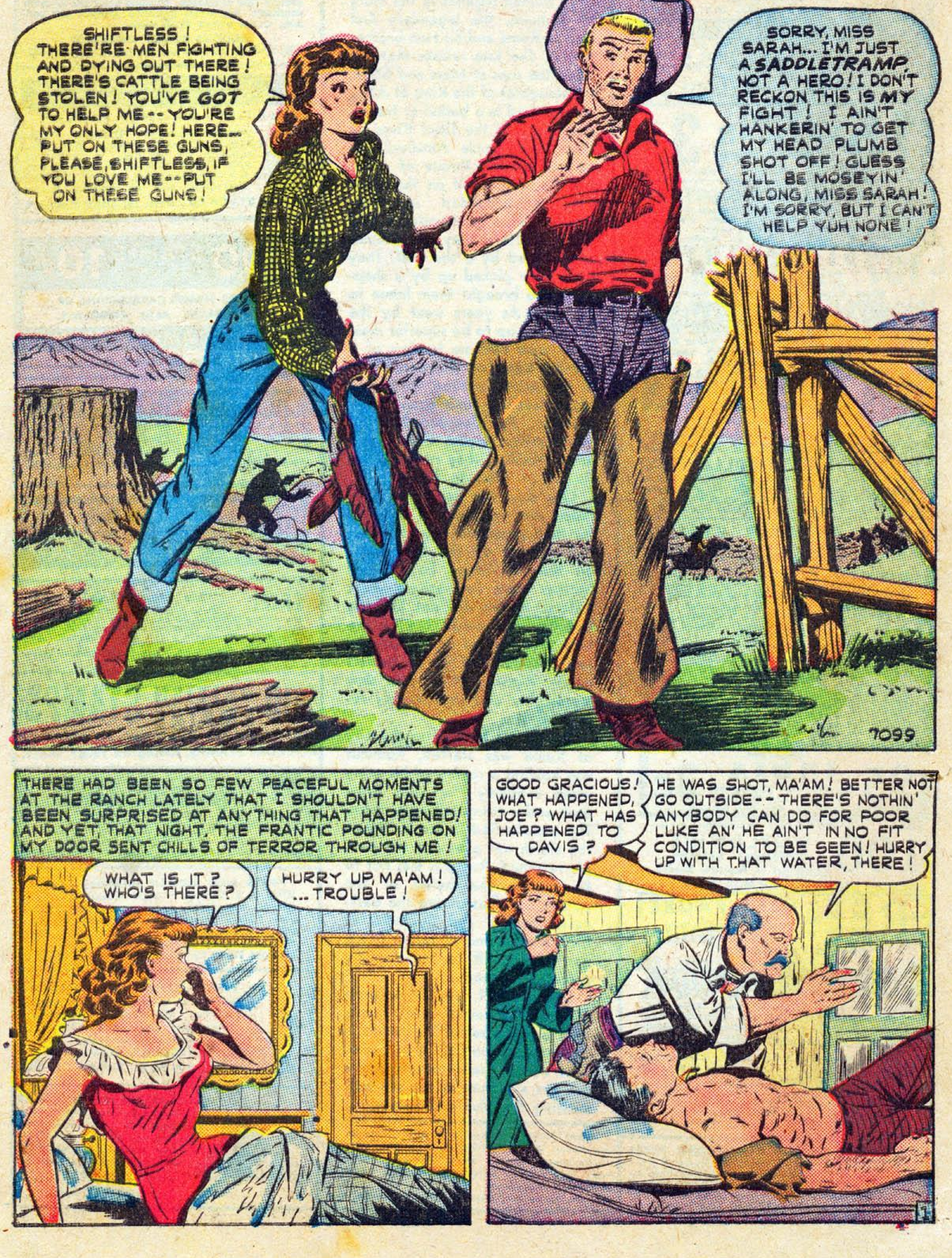
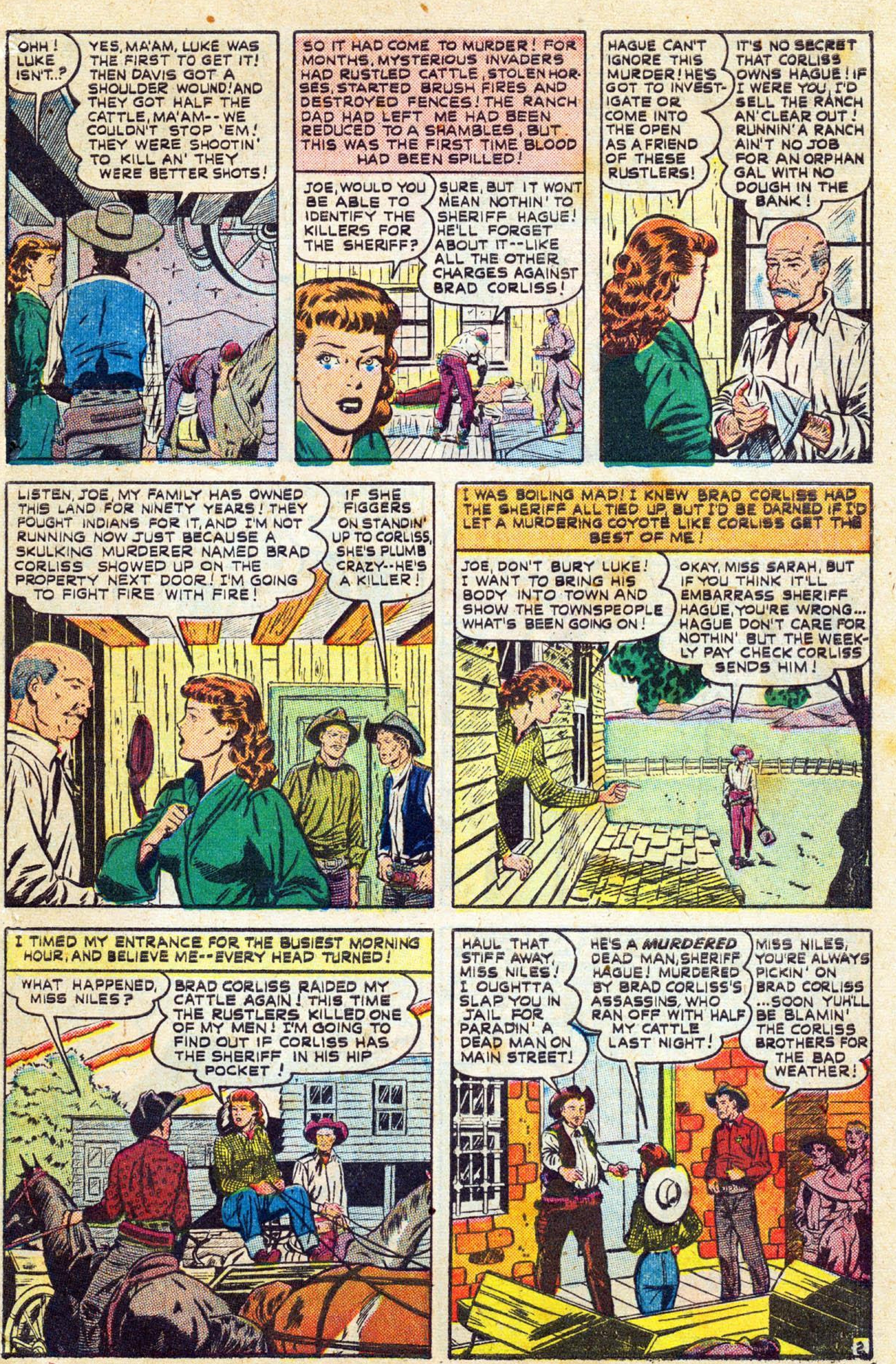
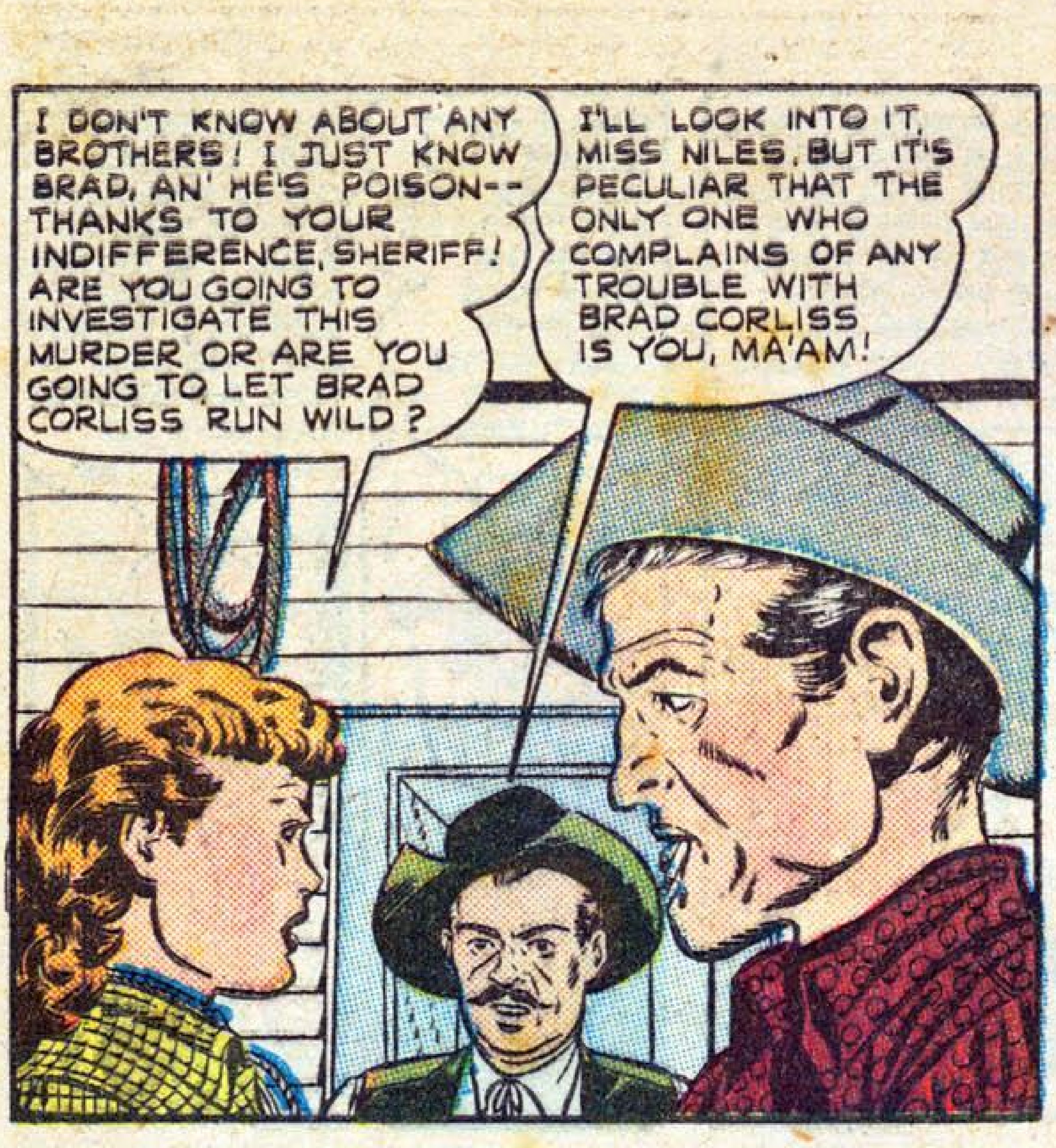
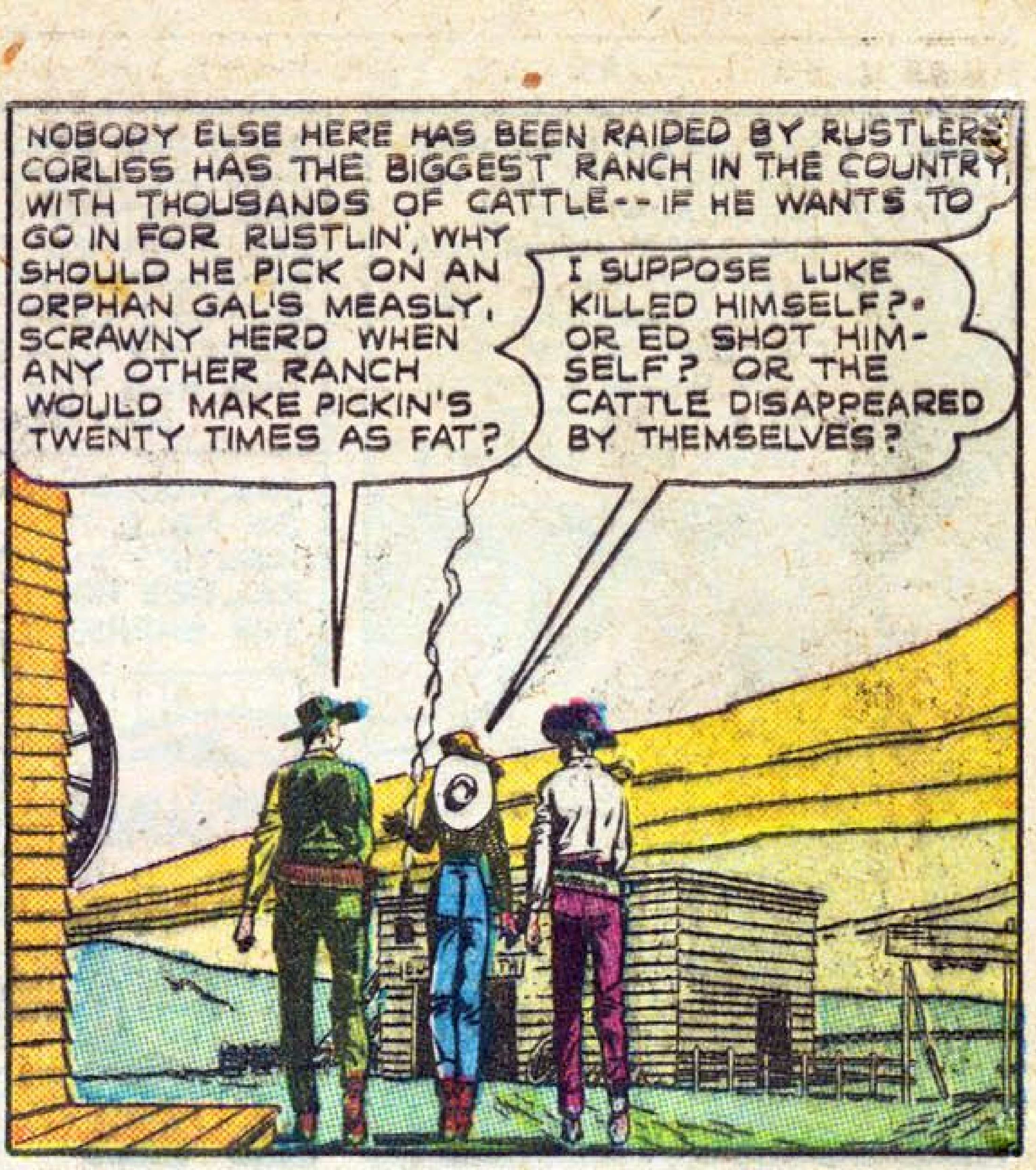
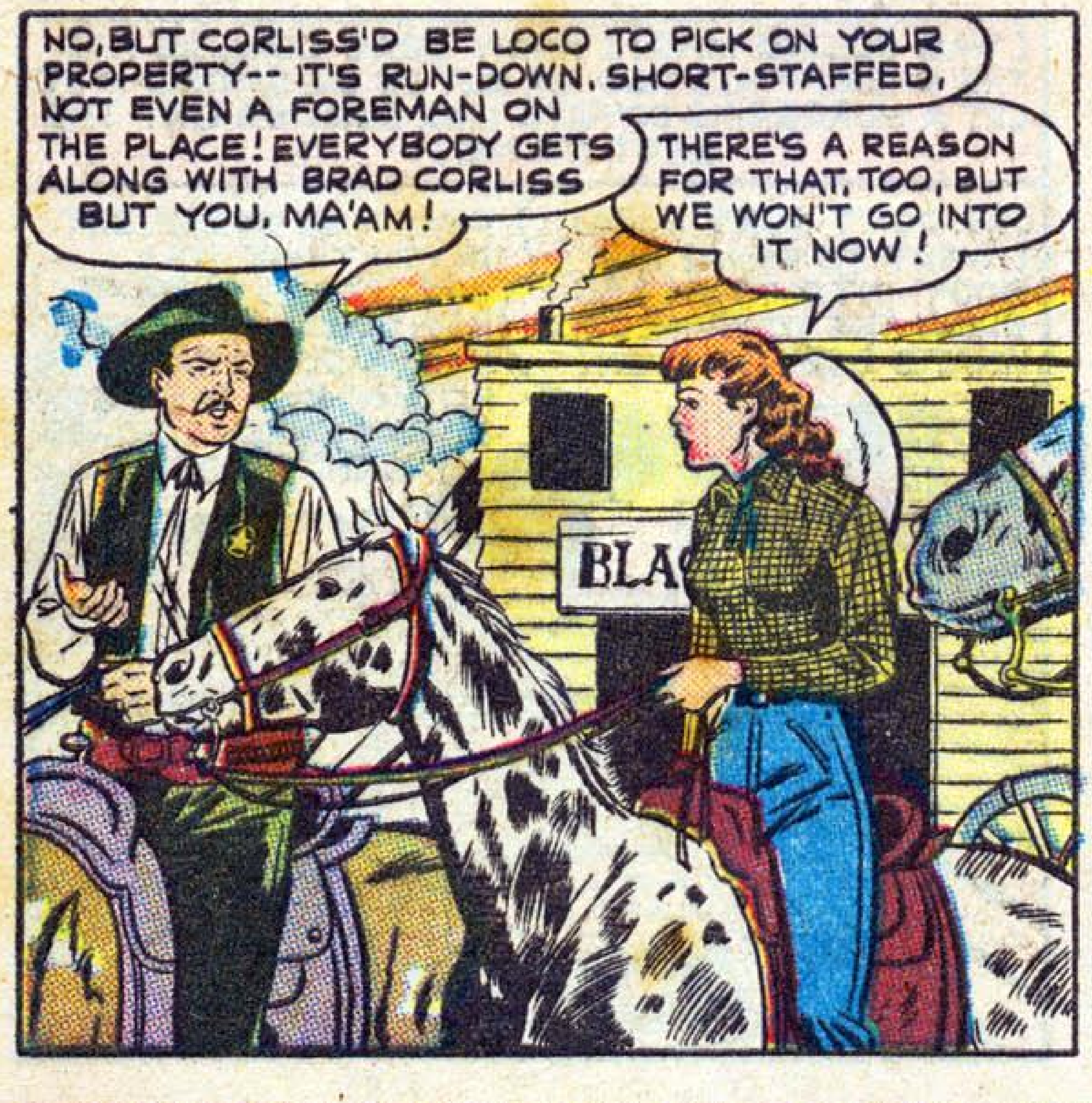
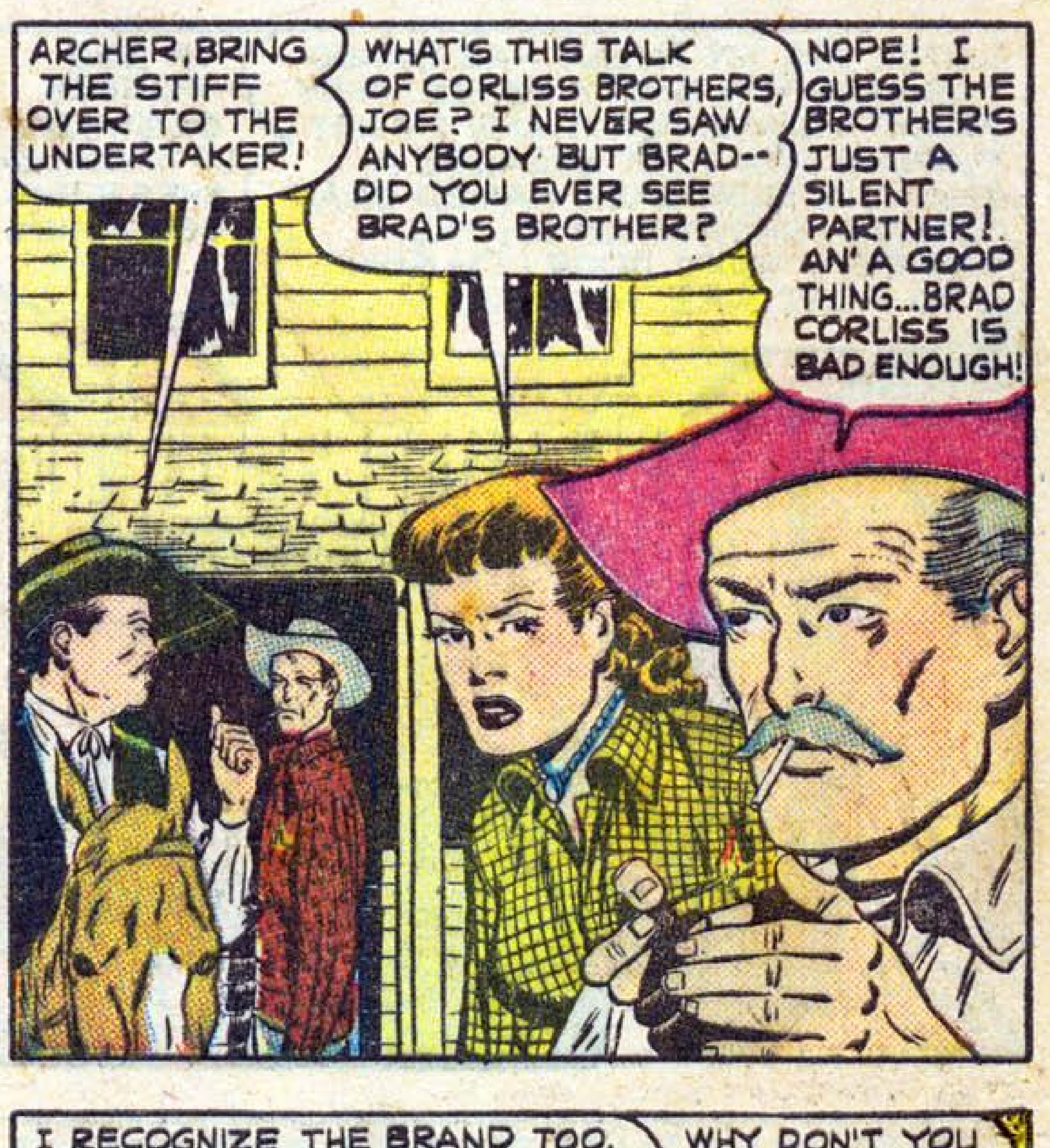

SHIFTLESS! THERE'RE MEN FIGHTING AND DYING OUT THERE! THERE'S CATTLE BEING STOLEN! YOU'VE *GOT* TO HELP ME--YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE! HERE... PUT ON THESE GUNS, PLEASE, SHIFTLESS, IF YOU LOVE ME--PUT ON THESE GUNS!
SORRY, MISS SARAH... I'M JUST A ***SADDLETRAMP,*** NOT A HERO! I DON'T RECKON THIS IS *MY* FIGHT! I AIN'T HANKERIN' TO GET MY HEAD PLUMB SHOT OFF! GUESS I'LL BE MOSEYIN' ALONG, MISS SARAH! I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP YUH NONE!
7099
THERE HAD BEEN SO FEW PEACEFUL MOMENTS AT THE RANCH LATELY THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED AT ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED! AND YET, THAT NIGHT, THE FRANTIC POUNDING ON MY DOOR SENT CHILLS OF TERROR THROUGH ME!
WHAT IS IT? WHO'S THERE?
HURRY UP, MA'AM! ...TROUBLE!
GOOD GRACIOUS! WHAT HAPPENED, JOE? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO DAVIS?
HE WAS SHOT, MA'AM! BETTER NOT GO OUTSIDE--THERE'S NOTHIN' ANYBODY CAN DO FOR POOR LUKE AN' HE AIN'T IN NO FIT CONDITION TO BE SEEN! HURRY UP WITH THAT WATER, THERE!

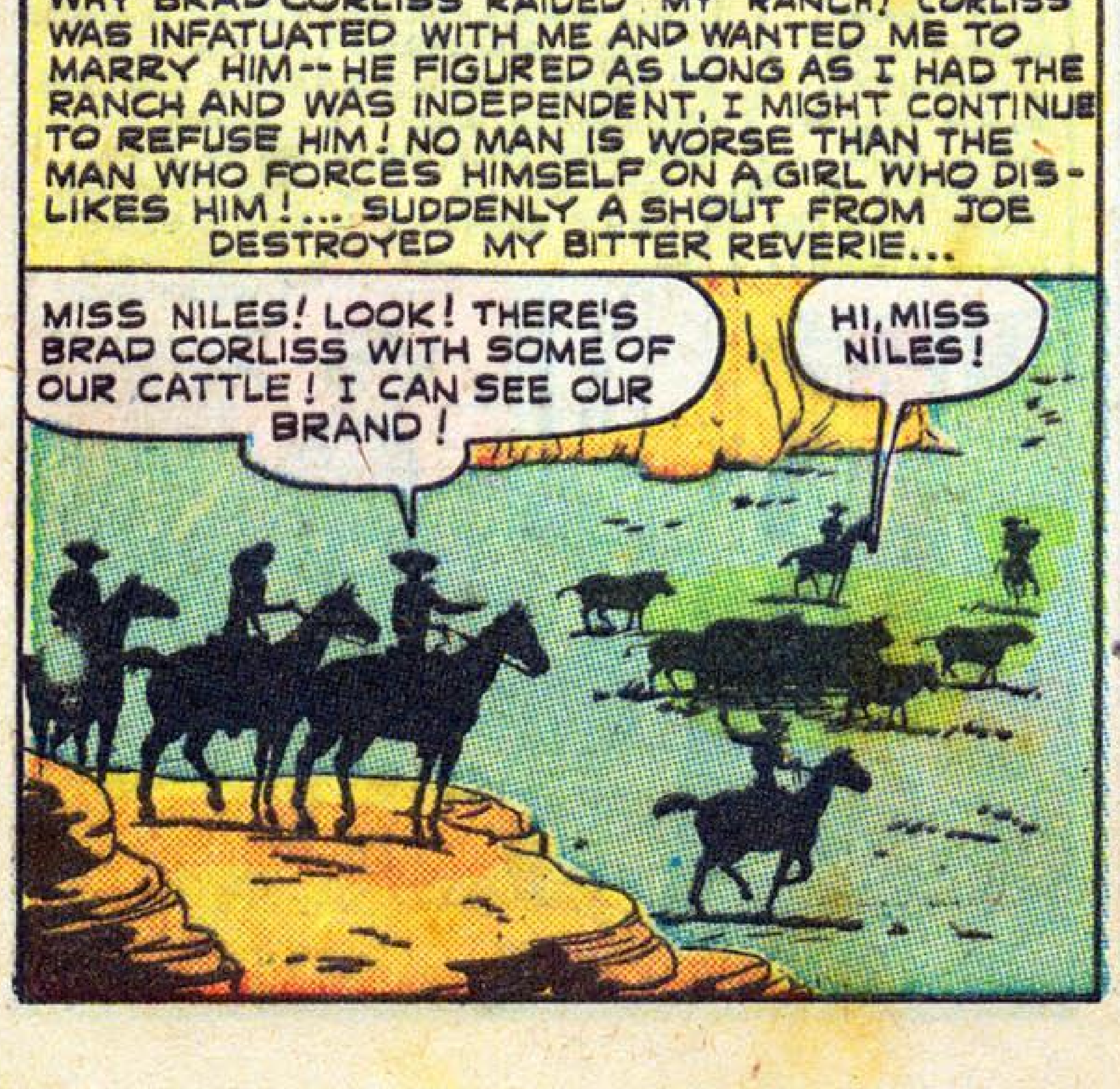

OHH! LUKE ISN'T..?
YES, MA'AM, LUKE WAS THE FIRST TO GET IT! THEN DAVIS GOT A SHOULDER WOUND! AND THEY GOT HALF THE CATTLE, MA'AM-- WE COULDN'T STOP 'EM! THEY WERE SHOOTIN' TO KILL AN' THEY WERE BETTER SHOTS!
SO IT HAD COME TO MURDER! FOR MONTHS, MYSTERIOUS INVADERS HAD RUSTLED CATTLE, STOLEN HORSES, STARTED BRUSH FIRES AND DESTROYED FENCES! THE RANCH DAD HAD LEFT ME HAD BEEN REDUCED TO A SHAMBLES, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME BLOOD HAD BEEN SPILLED!
JOE, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE KILLERS FOR THE SHERIFF?
SURE, BUT IT WON'T MEAN NOTHIN' TO SHERIFF HAGUE! HE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT--LIKE ALL THE OTHER CHARGES AGAINST BRAD CORLISS!
HAGUE CAN'T IGNORE THIS MURDER! HE'S GOT TO INVESTIGATE OR COME INTO THE OPEN AS A FRIEND OF THESE RUSTLERS!
IT'S NO SECRET THAT CORLISS OWNS HAGUE! IF I WERE YOU, I'D SELL THE RANCH AN' CLEAR OUT! RUNNIN' A RANCH AIN'T NO JOB FOR AN ORPHAN GAL WITH NO DOUGH IN THE BANK!
LISTEN, JOE, MY FAMILY HAS OWNED THIS LAND FOR NINETY YEARS! THEY FOUGHT INDIANS FOR IT, AND I'M NOT RUNNING NOW JUST BECAUSE A SKULKING MURDERER NAMED BRAD CORLISS SHOWED UP ON THE PROPERTY NEXT DOOR! I'M GOING TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!
IF SHE FIGGERS ON STANDIN' UP TO CORLISS, SHE'S PLUMB CRAZY--HE'S A KILLER!
I WAS BOILING MAD! I KNEW BRAD CORLISS HAD THE SHERIFF ALL TIED UP, BUT I'D BE DARNED IF I'D LET A MURDERING COYOTE LIKE CORLISS GET THE BEST OF ME!
JOE, DON'T BURY LUKE! I WANT TO BRING HIS BODY INTO TOWN AND SHOW THE TOWNSPEOPLE WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON!
OKAY, MISS SARAH, BUT IF YOU THINK IT'LL EMBARRASS SHERIFF HAGUE, YOU'RE WRONG... HAGUE DON'T CARE FOR NOTHIN' BUT THE WEEKLY PAY CHECK CORLISS SENDS HIM!
I TIMED MY ENTRANCE FOR THE BUSIEST MORNING HOUR, AND BELIEVE ME--EVERY HEAD TURNED!
WHAT HAPPENED, MISS NILES?
BRAD CORLISS RAIDED MY CATTLE AGAIN! THIS TIME THE RUSTLERS KILLED ONE OF MY MEN! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT IF CORLISS HAS THE SHERIFF IN HIS HIP POCKET!
HAUL THAT STIFF AWAY, MISS NILES! I OUGHTTA SLAP YOU IN JAIL FOR PARADIN' A DEAD MAN ON MAIN STREET!
HE'S A *MURDERED* DEAD MAN, SHERIFF HAGUE! MURDERED BY BRAD CORLISS'S ASSASSINS, WHO RAN OFF WITH HALF MY CATTLE LAST NIGHT!
MISS NILES, YOU'RE ALWAYS PICKIN' ON BRAD CORLISS ...SOON YUH'LL BE BLAMIN' THE CORLISS BROTHERS FOR THE BAD WEATHER!
2

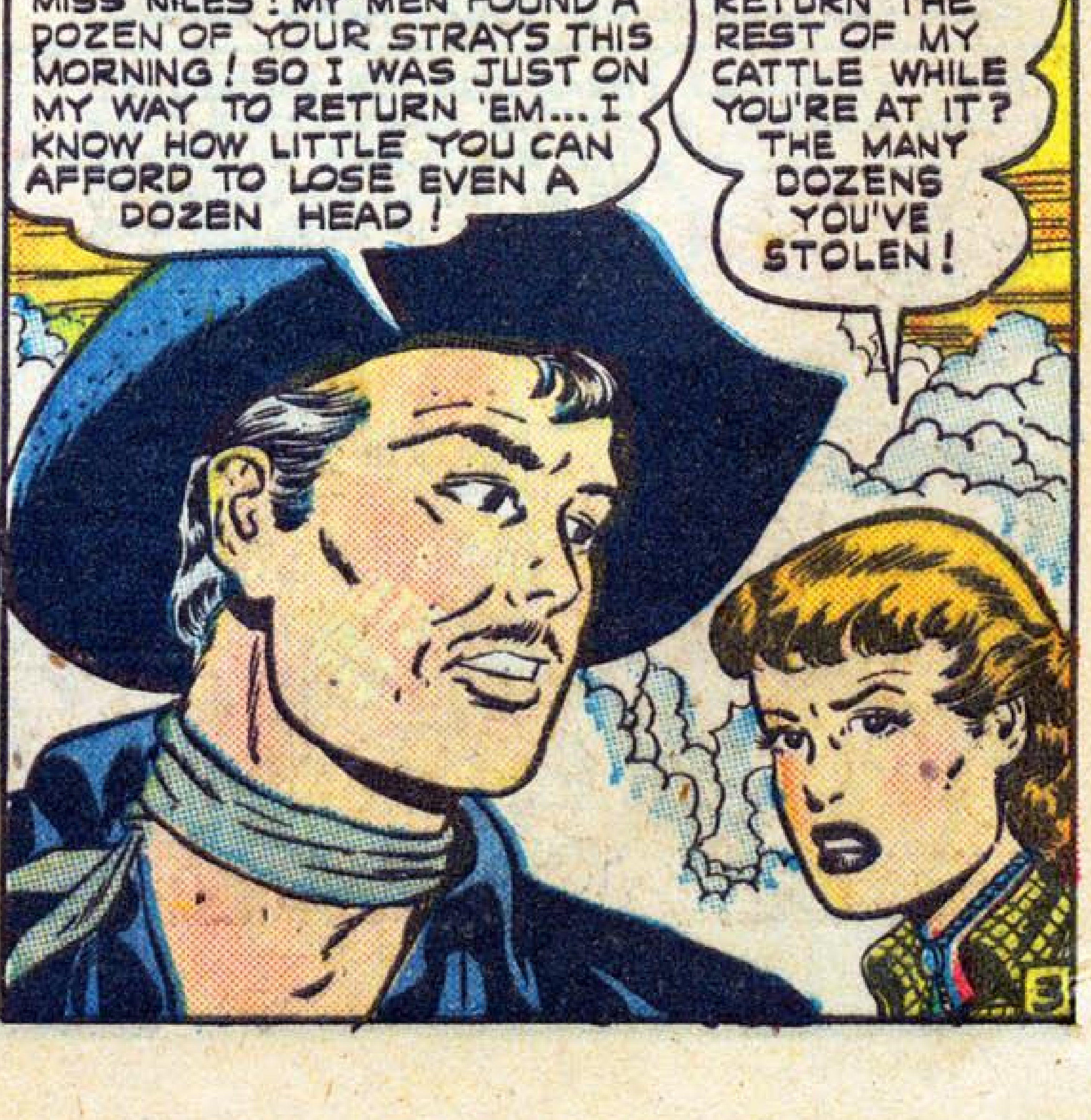

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY BROTHERS! I JUST KNOW BRAD, AN' HE'S POISON-- THANKS TO YOUR INDIFFERENCE, SHERIFF! ARE YOU GOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS MURDER OR ARE YOU GOING TO LET BRAD CORLISS RUN WILD?
I'LL LOOK INTO IT, MISS NILES, BUT IT'S PECULIAR THAT THE ONLY ONE WHO COMPLAINS OF ANY TROUBLE WITH BRAD CORLISS IS YOU, MA'AM!

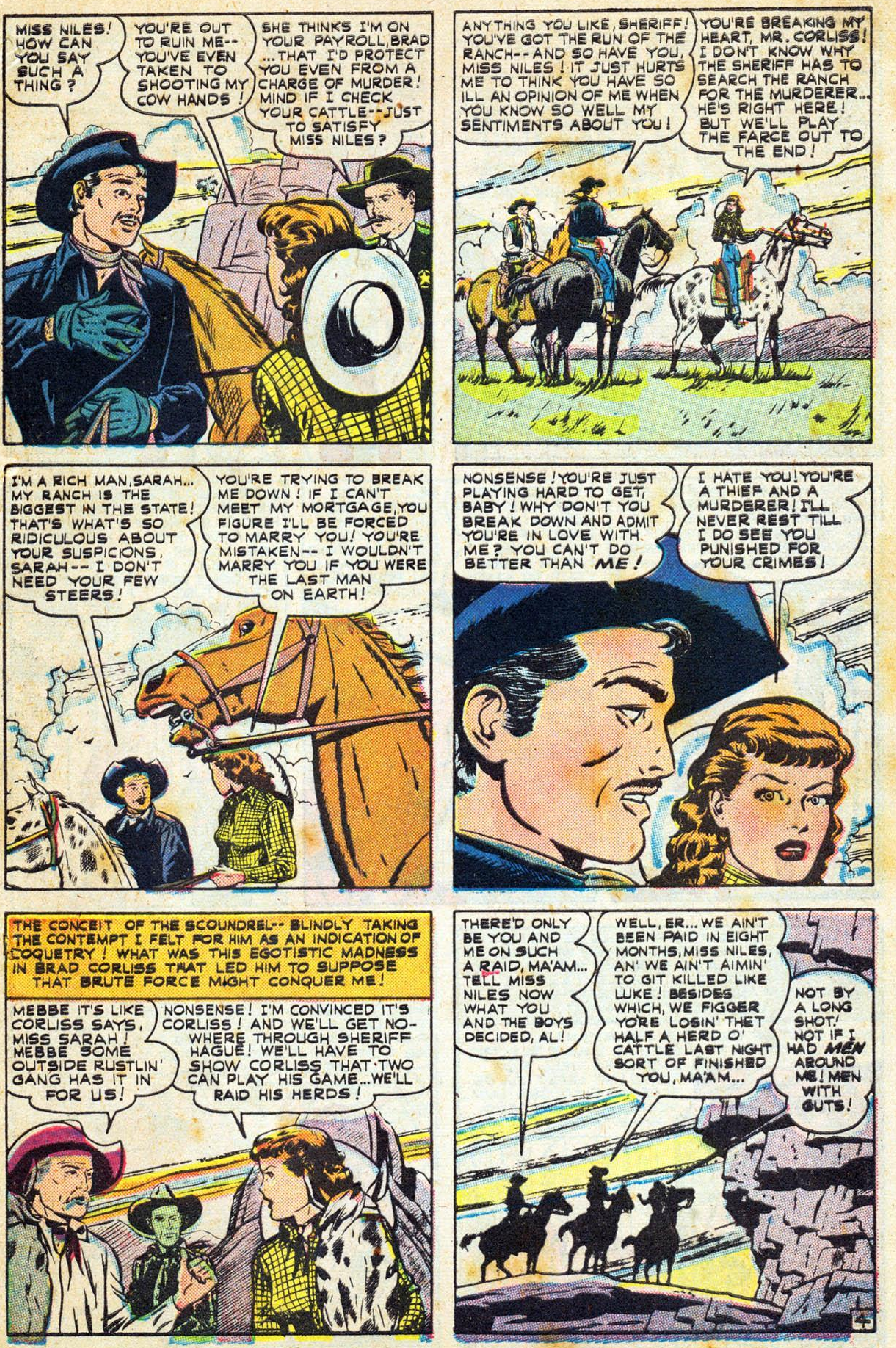

NOBODY ELSE HERE HAS BEEN RAIDED BY RUSTLERS! CORLISS HAS THE BIGGEST RANCH IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THOUSANDS OF CATTLE-- IF HE WANTS TO GO IN FOR RUSTLIN', WHY SHOULD HE PICK ON AN ORPHAN GAL'S MEASLY, SCRAWNY HERD WHEN ANY OTHER RANCH WOULD MAKE PICKIN'S TWENTY TIMES AS FAT?
I SUPPOSE LUKE KILLED HIMSELF?-- OR ED SHOT HIMSELF? OR THE CATTLE DISAPPEARED BY THEMSELVES?

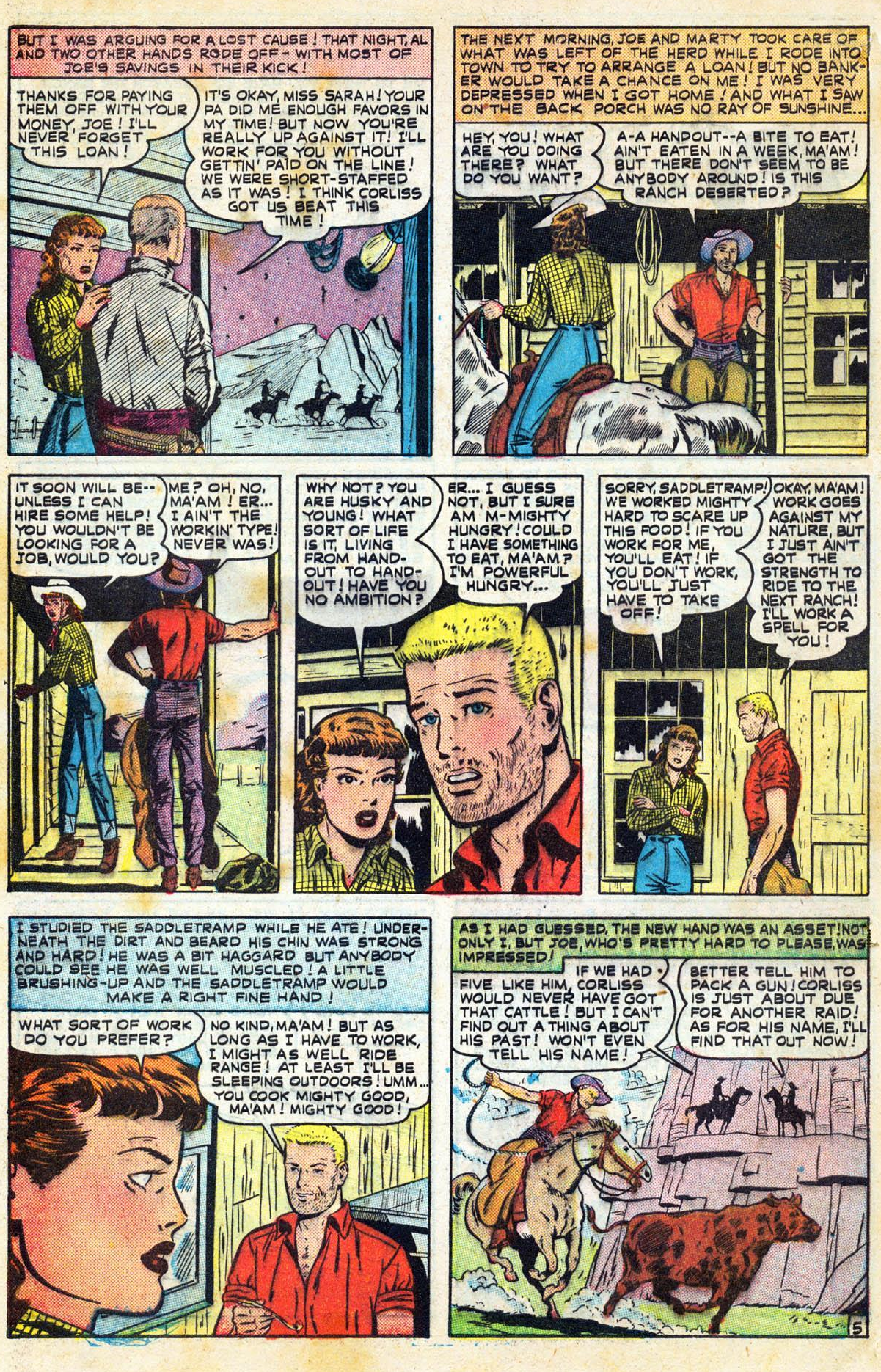

NO, BUT CORLISS'D BE LOCO TO PICK ON YOUR PROPERTY-- IT'S RUN-DOWN, SHORT-STAFFED, NOT EVEN A FOREMAN ON THE PLACE! EVERYBODY GETS ALONG WITH BRAD CORLISS BUT YOU, MA'AM!
THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT, TOO, BUT WE WON'T GO INTO IT NOW!
BLA

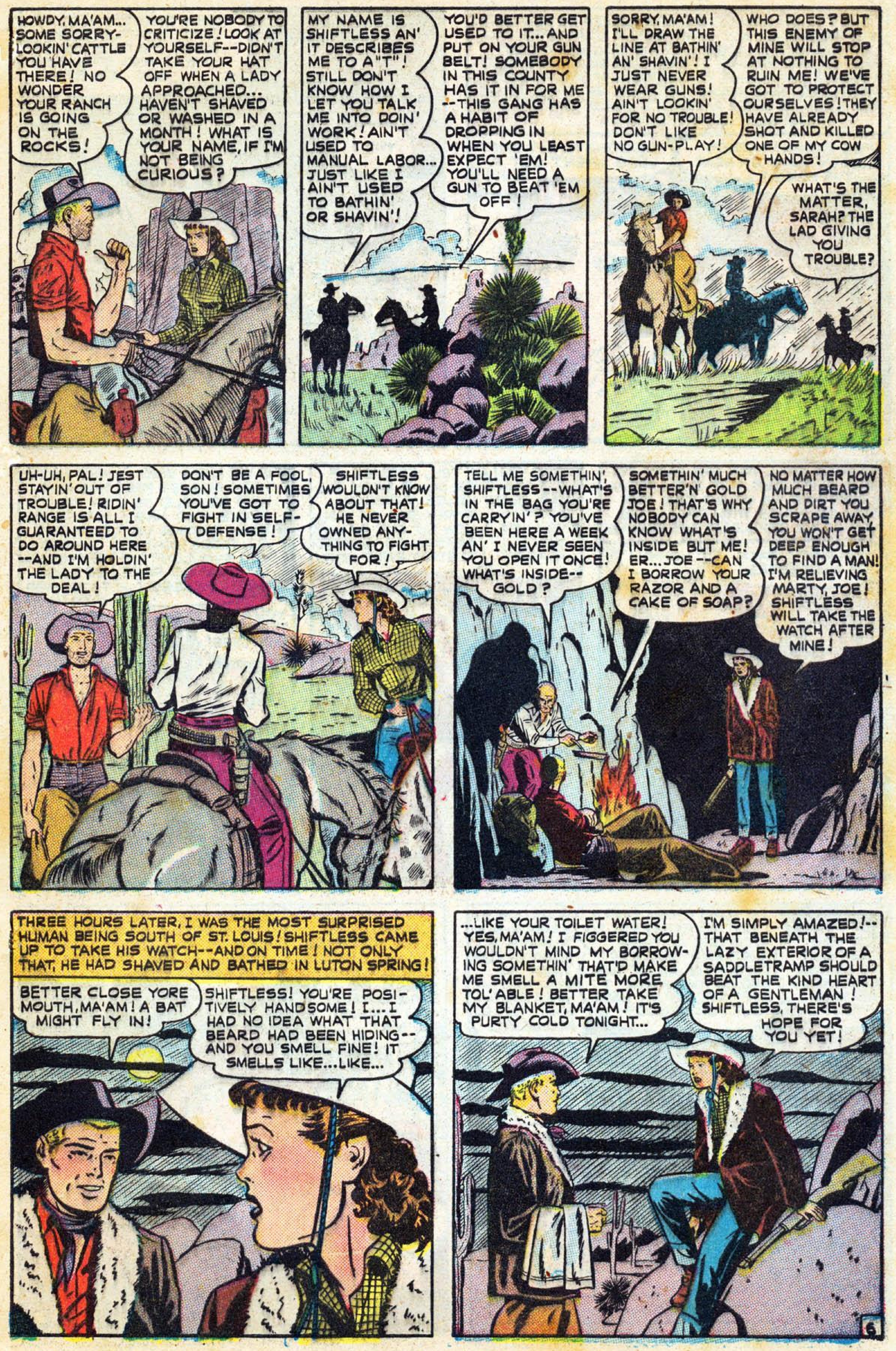

ARCHER, BRING THE STIFF OVER TO THE UNDERTAKER!
WHAT'S THIS TALK OF CORLISS BROTHERS, JOE? I NEVER SAW ANYBODY BUT BRAD-- DID YOU EVER SEE BRAD'S BROTHER?
NOPE! I GUESS THE BROTHER'S JUST A SILENT PARTNER! AN' A GOOD THING...BRAD CORLISS IS BAD ENOUGH!

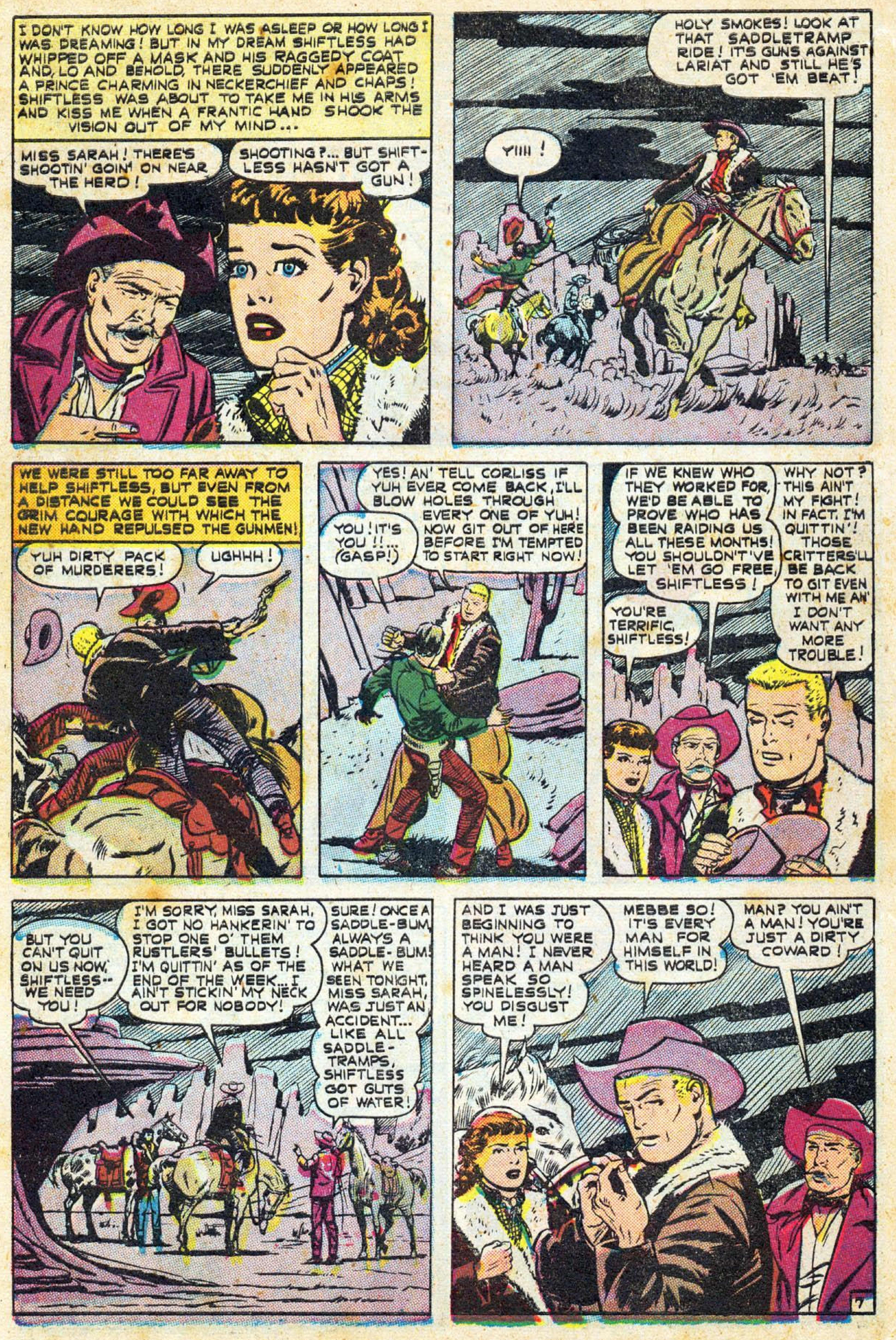

"BAD" WAS PUTTING IT GENEROUSLY, FOR I KNEW WHY BRAD CORLISS RAIDED MY RANCH! CORLISS WAS INFATUATED WITH ME AND WANTED ME TO MARRY HIM-- HE FIGURED AS LONG AS I HAD THE RANCH AND WAS INDEPENDENT, I MIGHT CONTINUE TO REFUSE HIM! NO MAN IS WORSE THAN THE MAN WHO FORCES HIMSELF ON A GIRL WHO DISLIKES HIM!... SUDDENLY A SHOUT FROM JOE DESTROYED MY BITTER REVERIE...
MISS NILES! LOOK! THERE'S BRAD CORLISS WITH SOME OF OUR CATTLE! I CAN SEE OUR BRAND!
HI, MISS NILES!

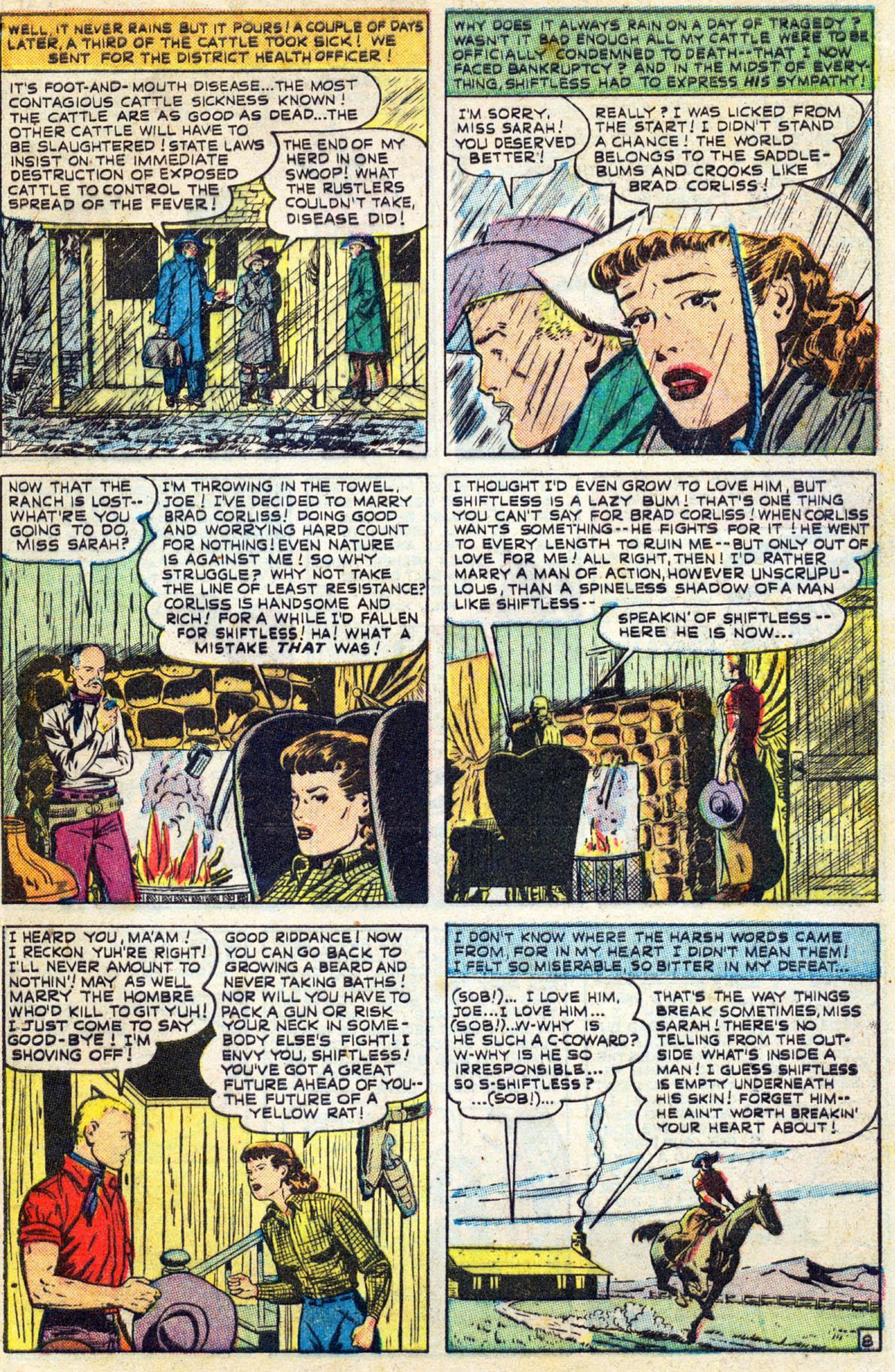

I RECOGNIZE THE BRAND TOO, MISS NILES! MY MEN FOUND A DOZEN OF YOUR STRAYS THIS MORNING! SO I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO RETURN 'EM... I KNOW HOW LITTLE YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE EVEN A DOZEN HEAD!
WHY DON'T YOU RETURN THE REST OF MY CATTLE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT? THE MANY DOZENS YOU'VE STOLEN!


MISS NILES! HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING?
YOU'RE OUT TO RUIN ME-- YOU'VE EVEN TAKEN TO SHOOTING MY COW HANDS!
SHE THINKS I'M ON YOUR PAYROLL, BRAD ... THAT I'D PROTECT YOU EVEN FROM A CHARGE OF MURDER! MIND IF I CHECK YOUR CATTLE--JUST TO SATISFY MISS NILES?
ANYTHING YOU LIKE, SHERIFF! YOU'VE GOT THE RUN OF THE RANCH-- AND SO HAVE YOU, MISS NILES! IT JUST HURTS ME TO THINK YOU HAVE SO ILL AN OPINION OF ME WHEN YOU KNOW SO WELL MY SENTIMENTS ABOUT YOU!
YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART, MR. CORLISS! I DON'T KNOW WHY THE SHERIFF HAS TO SEARCH THE RANCH FOR THE MURDERER... HE'S RIGHT HERE! BUT WE'LL PLAY THE FARCE OUT TO THE END!
I'M A RICH MAN, SARAH... MY RANCH IS THE BIGGEST IN THE STATE! THAT'S WHAT'S SO RIDICULOUS ABOUT YOUR SUSPICIONS, SARAH-- I DON'T NEED YOUR FEW STEERS!
YOU'RE TRYING TO BREAK ME DOWN! IF I CAN'T MEET MY MORTGAGE, YOU FIGURE I'LL BE FORCED TO MARRY YOU! YOU'RE MISTAKEN-- I WOULDN'T MARRY YOU IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ON EARTH!
NONSENSE! YOU'RE JUST PLAYING HARD TO GET, BABY! WHY DON'T YOU BREAK DOWN AND ADMIT YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME? YOU CAN'T DO BETTER THAN ME!
I HATE YOU! YOU'RE A THIEF AND A MURDERER! I'LL NEVER REST TILL I DO SEE YOU PUNISHED FOR YOUR CRIMES!
THE CONCEIT OF THE SCOUNDREL-- BLINDLY TAKING THE CONTEMPT I FELT FOR HIM AS AN INDICATION OF COQUETRY! WHAT WAS THIS EGOTISTIC MADNESS IN BRAD CORLISS THAT LED HIM TO SUPPOSE THAT BRUTE FORCE MIGHT CONQUER ME!
MEBBE IT'S LIKE CORLISS SAYS, MISS SARAH! MEBBE SOME OUTSIDE RUSTLIN' GANG HAS IT IN FOR US!
NONSENSE! I'M CONVINCED IT'S CORLISS! AND WE'LL GET NOWHERE THROUGH SHERIFF HAGUE! WE'LL HAVE TO SHOW CORLISS THAT TWO CAN PLAY HIS GAME... WE'LL RAID HIS HERDS!
THERE'D ONLY BE YOU AND ME ON SUCH A RAID, MA'AM... TELL MISS NILES NOW WHAT YOU AND THE BOYS DECIDED, AL!
WELL, ER... WE AIN'T BEEN PAID IN EIGHT MONTHS, MISS NILES, AN' WE AIN'T AIMIN' TO GIT KILLED LIKE LUKE! BESIDES WHICH, WE FIGGER YO'RE LOSIN' THET HALF A HERD O' CATTLE LAST NIGHT SORT OF FINISHED YOU, MA'AM...
NOT BY A LONG SHOT! NOT IF I HAD MEN AROUND ME! MEN WITH GUTS!


BUT I WAS ARGUING FOR A LOST CAUSE! THAT NIGHT, AL AND TWO OTHER HANDS RODE OFF - WITH MOST OF JOE'S SAVINGS IN THEIR KICK!
THANKS FOR PAYING THEM OFF WITH YOUR MONEY, JOE! I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS LOAN!
IT'S OKAY, MISS SARAH! YOUR PA DID ME ENOUGH FAVORS IN MY TIME! BUT NOW YOU'RE REALLY UP AGAINST IT! I'LL WORK FOR YOU WITHOUT GETTIN' PAID ON THE LINE! WE WERE SHORT-STAFFED AS IT WAS! I THINK CORLISS GOT US BEAT THIS TIME!
THE NEXT MORNING, JOE AND MARTY TOOK CARE OF WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE HERD WHILE I RODE INTO TOWN TO TRY TO ARRANGE A LOAN! BUT NO BANKER WOULD TAKE A CHANCE ON ME! I WAS VERY DEPRESSED WHEN I GOT HOME! AND WHAT I SAW ON THE BACK PORCH WAS NO RAY OF SUNSHINE...
HEY, YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
A-A HANDOUT--A BITE TO EAT! AIN'T EATEN IN A WEEK, MA'AM! BUT THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANYBODY AROUND! IS THIS RANCH DESERTED?
IT SOON WILL BE--UNLESS I CAN HIRE SOME HELP! YOU WOULDN'T BE LOOKING FOR A JOB, WOULD YOU?
ME? OH, NO, MA'AM! ER... I AIN'T THE WORKIN' TYPE! NEVER WAS!
WHY NOT? YOU ARE HUSKY AND YOUNG! WHAT SORT OF LIFE IS IT, LIVING FROM HANDOUT TO HANDOUT! HAVE YOU NO AMBITION?
ER... I GUESS NOT, BUT I SURE AM M-MIGHTY HUNGRY! COULD I HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT, MA'AM? I'M POWERFUL HUNGRY...
SORRY, SADDLETRAMP! WE WORKED MIGHTY HARD TO SCARE UP THIS FOOD! IF YOU WORK FOR ME, YOU'LL EAT! IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE OFF!
OKAY, MA'AM! WORK GOES AGAINST MY NATURE, BUT I JUST AIN'T GOT THE STRENGTH TO RIDE TO THE NEXT RANCH! I'LL WORK A SPELL FOR YOU!
I STUDIED THE SADDLETRAMP WHILE HE ATE! UNDERNEATH THE DIRT AND BEARD HIS CHIN WAS STRONG AND HARD! HE WAS A BIT HAGGARD BUT ANYBODY COULD SEE HE WAS WELL MUSCLED! A LITTLE BRUSHING-UP AND THE SADDLETRAMP WOULD MAKE A RIGHT FINE HAND!
WHAT SORT OF WORK DO YOU PREFER?
NO KIND, MA'AM! BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE TO WORK, I MIGHT AS WELL RIDE RANGE! AT LEAST I'LL BE SLEEPING OUTDOORS! UMM... YOU COOK MIGHTY GOOD, MA'AM! MIGHTY GOOD!
AS I HAD GUESSED, THE NEW HAND WAS AN ASSET! NOT ONLY I, BUT JOE, WHO'S PRETTY HARD TO PLEASE, WAS IMPRESSED!
IF WE HAD FIVE LIKE HIM, CORLISS WOULD NEVER HAVE GOT THAT CATTLE! BUT I CAN'T FIND OUT A THING ABOUT HIS PAST! WON'T EVEN TELL HIS NAME!
BETTER TELL HIM TO PACK A GUN! CORLISS IS JUST ABOUT DUE FOR ANOTHER RAID! AS FOR HIS NAME, I'LL FIND THAT OUT NOW!


HOWDY, MA'AM... SOME SORRY-LOOKIN' CATTLE YOU HAVE THERE! NO WONDER YOUR RANCH IS GOING ON THE ROCKS!
YOU'RE NOBODY TO CRITICIZE! LOOK AT YOURSELF--DIDN'T TAKE YOUR HAT OFF WHEN A LADY APPROACHED... HAVEN'T SHAVED OR WASHED IN A MONTH! WHAT IS YOUR NAME, IF I'M NOT BEING CURIOUS?
MY NAME IS SHIFTLESS AN' IT DESCRIBES ME TO A "T"! STILL DON'T KNOW HOW I LET YOU TALK ME INTO DOIN' WORK! AIN'T USED TO MANUAL LABOR... JUST LIKE I AIN'T USED TO BATHIN' OR SHAVIN'!
YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO IT... AND PUT ON YOUR GUN BELT! SOMEBODY IN THIS COUNTY HAS IT IN FOR ME --THIS GANG HAS A HABIT OF DROPPING IN WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT 'EM! YOU'LL NEED A GUN TO BEAT 'EM OFF!
SORRY, MA'AM! I'LL DRAW THE LINE AT BATHIN' AN' SHAVIN'! I JUST NEVER WEAR GUNS! AIN'T LOOKIN' FOR NO TROUBLE! DON'T LIKE NO GUN-PLAY!
WHO DOES? BUT THIS ENEMY OF MINE WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO RUIN ME! WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT OURSELVES! THEY HAVE ALREADY SHOT AND KILLED ONE OF MY COW HANDS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SARAH? THE LAD GIVING YOU TROUBLE?
UH-UH, PAL! JEST STAYIN' OUT OF TROUBLE! RIDIN' RANGE IS ALL I GUARANTEED TO DO AROUND HERE --AND I'M HOLDIN' THE LADY TO THE DEAL!
DON'T BE A FOOL, SON! SOMETIMES YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT IN SELF-DEFENSE!
SHIFTLESS WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT! HE NEVER OWNED ANYTHING TO FIGHT FOR!
TELL ME SOMETHIN', SHIFTLESS--WHAT'S IN THE BAG YOU'RE CARRYIN'? YOU'VE BEEN HERE A WEEK AN' I NEVER SEEN YOU OPEN IT ONCE! WHAT'S INSIDE--GOLD?
SOMETHIN' MUCH BETTER'N GOLD JOE! THAT'S WHY NOBODY CAN KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE BUT ME! ER... JOE--CAN I BORROW YOUR RAZOR AND A CAKE OF SOAP?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH BEARD AND DIRT YOU SCRAPE AWAY, YOU WON'T GET DEEP ENOUGH TO FIND A MAN! I'M RELIEVING MARTY, JOE! SHIFTLESS WILL TAKE THE WATCH AFTER MINE!
THREE HOURS LATER, I WAS THE MOST SURPRISED HUMAN BEING SOUTH OF ST. LOUIS! SHIFTLESS CAME UP TO TAKE HIS WATCH--AND ON TIME! NOT ONLY THAT, HE HAD SHAVED AND BATHED IN LUTON SPRING!
BETTER CLOSE YORE MOUTH, MA'AM! A BAT MIGHT FLY IN!
SHIFTLESS! YOU'RE POSITIVELY HANDSOME! I... I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THAT BEARD HAD BEEN HIDING-- AND YOU SMELL FINE! IT SMELLS LIKE... LIKE...
...LIKE YOUR TOILET WATER! YES, MA'AM! I FIGGERED YOU WOULDN'T MIND MY BORROWING SOMETHIN' THAT'D MAKE ME SMELL A MITE MORE TOL'ABLE! BETTER TAKE MY BLANKET, MA'AM! IT'S PURTY COLD TONIGHT...
I'M SIMPLY AMAZED!-- THAT BENEATH THE LAZY EXTERIOR OF A SADDLETRAMP SHOULD BEAT THE KIND HEART OF A GENTLEMAN! SHIFTLESS, THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET!


I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS ASLEEP OR HOW LONG I WAS DREAMING! BUT IN MY DREAM SHIFTLESS HAD WHIPPED OFF A MASK AND HIS RAGGEDY COAT AND, LO AND BEHOLD, THERE SUDDENLY APPEARED A PRINCE CHARMING IN NECKERCHIEF AND CHAPS! SHIFTLESS WAS ABOUT TO TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS AND KISS ME WHEN A FRANTIC HAND SHOOK THE VISION OUT OF MY MIND...
MISS SARAH! THERE'S SHOOTIN' GOIN' ON NEAR THE HERD!
SHOOTING?... BUT SHIFTLESS HASN'T GOT A GUN!
HOLY SMOKES! LOOK AT THAT SADDLETRAMP RIDE! IT'S GUNS AGAINST LARIAT AND STILL HE'S GOT 'EM BEAT!
YIII!
WE WERE STILL TOO FAR AWAY TO HELP SHIFTLESS, BUT EVEN FROM A DISTANCE WE COULD SEE THE GRIM COURAGE WITH WHICH THE NEW HAND REPULSED THE GUNMEN!
YUH DIRTY PACK OF MURDERERS!
UGHHH!
YES! AN' TELL CORLISS IF YUH EVER COME BACK, I'LL BLOW HOLES THROUGH EVERY ONE OF YUH! NOW GIT OUT OF HERE BEFORE I'M TEMPTED TO START RIGHT NOW!
YOU! IT'S YOU!!... (GASP!)
IF WE KNEW WHO THEY WORKED FOR, WE'D BE ABLE TO PROVE WHO HAS BEEN RAIDING US ALL THESE MONTHS! YOU SHOULDN'T'VE LET 'EM GO FREE, SHIFTLESS!
WHY NOT? THIS AIN'T MY FIGHT! IN FACT, I'M QUITTIN'! THOSE CRITTERS'LL BE BACK TO GIT EVEN WITH ME AN' I DON'T WANT ANY MORE TROUBLE!
YOU'RE TERRIFIC, SHIFTLESS!
BUT YOU CAN'T QUIT ON US NOW, SHIFTLESS-- WE NEED YOU!
I'M SORRY, MISS SARAH, I GOT NO HANKERIN' TO STOP ONE O' THEM RUSTLERS' BULLETS! I'M QUITTIN' AS OF THE END OF THE WEEK... I AIN'T STICKIN' MY NECK OUT FOR NOBODY!
SURE! ONCE A SADDLE-BUM, ALWAYS A SADDLE-BUM! WHAT WE SEEN TONIGHT, MISS SARAH, WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT... LIKE ALL SADDLE-TRAMPS, SHIFTLESS GOT GUTS OF WATER!
AND I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WERE A MAN! I NEVER HEARD A MAN SPEAK SO SPINELESSLY! YOU DISGUST ME!
MEBBE SO! IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF IN THIS WORLD!
MAN? YOU AIN'T A MAN! YOU'RE JUST A DIRTY COWARD!


WELL, IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS! A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER, A THIRD OF THE CATTLE TOOK SICK! WE SENT FOR THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER!
IT'S FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE... THE MOST CONTAGIOUS CATTLE SICKNESS KNOWN! THE CATTLE ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD... THE OTHER CATTLE WILL HAVE TO BE SLAUGHTERED! STATE LAWS INSIST ON THE IMMEDIATE DESTRUCTION OF EXPOSED CATTLE TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE FEVER!
THE END OF MY HERD IN ONE SWOOP! WHAT THE RUSTLERS COULDN'T TAKE, DISEASE DID!
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS RAIN ON A DAY OF TRAGEDY? WASN'T IT BAD ENOUGH ALL MY CATTLE WERE TO BE OFFICIALLY CONDEMNED TO DEATH--THAT I NOW FACED BANKRUPTCY? AND IN THE MIDST OF EVERYTHING, SHIFTLESS HAD TO EXPRESS *HIS* SYMPATHY!
I'M SORRY, MISS SARAH! YOU DESERVED BETTER!
REALLY? I WAS LICKED FROM THE START! I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE! THE WORLD BELONGS TO THE SADDLE-BUMS AND CROOKS LIKE BRAD CORLISS!
NOW THAT THE RANCH IS LOST-- WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, MISS SARAH?
I'M THROWING IN THE TOWEL, JOE! I'VE DECIDED TO MARRY BRAD CORLISS! DOING GOOD AND WORRYING HARD COUNT FOR NOTHING! EVEN NATURE IS AGAINST ME! SO WHY STRUGGLE? WHY NOT TAKE THE LINE OF LEAST RESISTANCE? CORLISS IS HANDSOME AND RICH! FOR A WHILE I'D FALLEN FOR SHIFTLESS! HA! WHAT A MISTAKE *THAT* WAS!
I THOUGHT I'D EVEN GROW TO LOVE HIM, BUT SHIFTLESS IS A LAZY BUM! THAT'S ONE THING YOU CAN'T SAY FOR BRAD CORLISS! WHEN CORLISS WANTS SOMETHING--HE FIGHTS FOR IT! HE WENT TO EVERY LENGTH TO RUIN ME--BUT ONLY OUT OF LOVE FOR ME! ALL RIGHT, THEN! I'D RATHER MARRY A MAN OF ACTION, HOWEVER UNSCRUPULOUS, THAN A SPINELESS SHADOW OF A MAN LIKE SHIFTLESS--
SPEAKIN' OF SHIFTLESS-- HERE HE IS NOW...
I HEARD YOU, MA'AM! I RECKON YUH'RE RIGHT! I'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO NOTHIN'! MAY AS WELL MARRY THE HOMBRE WHO'D KILL TO GIT YUH! I JUST COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE! I'M SHOVING OFF!
GOOD RIDDANCE! NOW YOU CAN GO BACK TO GROWING A BEARD AND NEVER TAKING BATHS! NOR WILL YOU HAVE TO PACK A GUN OR RISK YOUR NECK IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S FIGHT! I ENVY YOU, SHIFTLESS! YOU'VE GOT A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU-- THE FUTURE OF A YELLOW RAT!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HARSH WORDS CAME FROM, FOR IN MY HEART I DIDN'T MEAN THEM! I FELT SO MISERABLE, SO BITTER IN MY DEFEAT...
(SOB!)... I LOVE HIM, JOE... I LOVE HIM... (SOB!)...W-WHY IS HE SUCH A C-COWARD? W-WHY IS HE SO IRRESPONSIBLE... SO S-SHIFTLESS? ...(SOB!)...
THAT'S THE WAY THINGS BREAK SOMETIMES, MISS SARAH! THERE'S NO TELLING FROM THE OUTSIDE WHAT'S INSIDE A MAN! I GUESS SHIFTLESS IS EMPTY UNDERNEATH HIS SKIN! FORGET HIM-- HE AIN'T WORTH BREAKIN' YOUR HEART ABOUT!

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I FOUND OUT LATER THAT TWO DAYS AFTER SHIFTLESS LEFT, HE HEARD A CONVERSATION IN ONE OF THE TOWN BARS BETWEEN DEPUTY ARCHER AND THE DISTRICT CATTLE INSPECTOR, WHO WERE ENJOYING A BINGE!
$5,000 JUST TO SNEAK OVER TO THE GAL'S HERD ONE NIGHT AND INJECT FEVER GERMS INTO A DOZEN OF HER CATTLE! THA'SH WHAT I CALL SWELL PAY...(HIC!)
YUH'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO BRAD CORLISS! IF KILLIN COWHANDS AND RUNNIN' OFF CATTLE DON'T WORK, A FOOT-AN'-MOUTH EPIDEMIC WILL! THE PAY-OFF IS--HE'S MARRYIN' THE GAL THIS AFTERNOON!
HMM...THIS MEANS IT'S TIME TO OPEN MY LITTLE BUNDLE!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT MY FACE, YOU MURDERIN' COYOTES... AND THE GUNS TOO! I PACKED 'EM AWAY A LONG TIME AGO... BUT I UNWRAPPED 'EM TODAY... FOR YOU AND THE GROOM! C'MON, --WE'RE GOIN' TO A WEDDIN'!
CRAWLIN' CACTUS! IT'S...
YEAH!...WE BETTER GO PEACEFUL-LIKE!
I THOUGHT I'D DROP THROUGH THE FLOOR WHEN SHIFTLESS ENTERED... JUST AS THE WEDDING STARTED!
GO AHEAD, DOC! TELL'EM HOW BRAD CORLISS PAID YOU TO INFECT MISS SARAH'S CATTLE SO THEY'D ALL HAVE TO BE SLAUGHTERED!
SHIFTLESS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH? HIS NAME ISN'T SHIFTLESS!
IT'S TRUE! ...BUT DON'T KILL ME!
SO YA THINK YA GOT THE GOODS ON BRAD CORLISS, EH? WELL, YA'LL NEVER LIVE TA TELL ANYONE! QUICK ARCHER! THERE'S A GUN BELT ON THE DEER ANTLER! KILL HIM!
SUDDENLY I SAW SHIFTLESS DROP TO THE GROUND! THERE WAS THE DEAFENING ROAR OF BIG SIX-GUNS..THUNDERING DEATH IN TWO DIRECTIONS!
ARCHER'S SHOTS WENT OVER THE SADDLE-BUM'S HEAD! THEY HIT CORLISS!
THEY'RE BOTH DEAD! WELL, AT LEAST, DAN, YOU WON'T HAVE IT ON YOUR CONSCIENCE THAT YOU KILLED YOUR BROTHER BRAD!
SHIFTLESS! ARE YOU BRAD'S BROTHER? THE BROTHER NOBODY SAW?
THAT'S RIGHT, MISS SARAH--I HELPED BRAD BUY THIS RANCH! BUT WHEN I SEEN THE SHADY DOIN'S HE WAS UP TO, I QUIT COLD ON HIM! I DECIDED TO BUM ACROSS THE BORDER...BUT FIRST I WANTED A LOOK AT THE GIRL BRAD WOULD KILL FOR! I'M GLAD I DID!
...IT CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT BEIN' A SADDLETRAMP! I LEARNED THAT IF YOU LOVE SOMETHIN', YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM TROUBLE-- LIKE I WAS DOIN' WITH BRAD-- YOU'VE GOT TO STAY AN' FACE IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO BUCK BRAD BECAUSE HE WAS MY FLESH AN' BLOOD--BUT I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE BRAD FORCE THE GIRL I LOVED INTO MARRYIN' A MAN SHE DIDN'T LOVE!
OH, SHIFTLESS! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
SHORE! IF YUH'LL SAY YUH'LL MARRY ME!
OH, YES, DARLIN'! YES! YES!
WELL, WE COMBINED RANCHES, AND SHIFTLESS...I MEAN DAN ...GOT RID OF BRAD'S TOUGH RANCH HANDS! ALSO, DAN PUT AWAY HIS GUN BELT FOR THE LAST TIME... HE'LL NEVER NEED IT AGAIN! ALL HE NEEDS IS ME --AND I HIM! THE SADDLETRAMP HAS COME HOME FOR GOOD!
The End

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HAVE A SLIMMER, YOUTHFUL, FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY!

No other girdle or supporter belt has more hold in power! The Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt is the newest, most comfortable girdle I ever had.

REDUCE

YOUR APPEARANCE! LOOK AND FEEL LIKE SIXTEEN AGAIN!

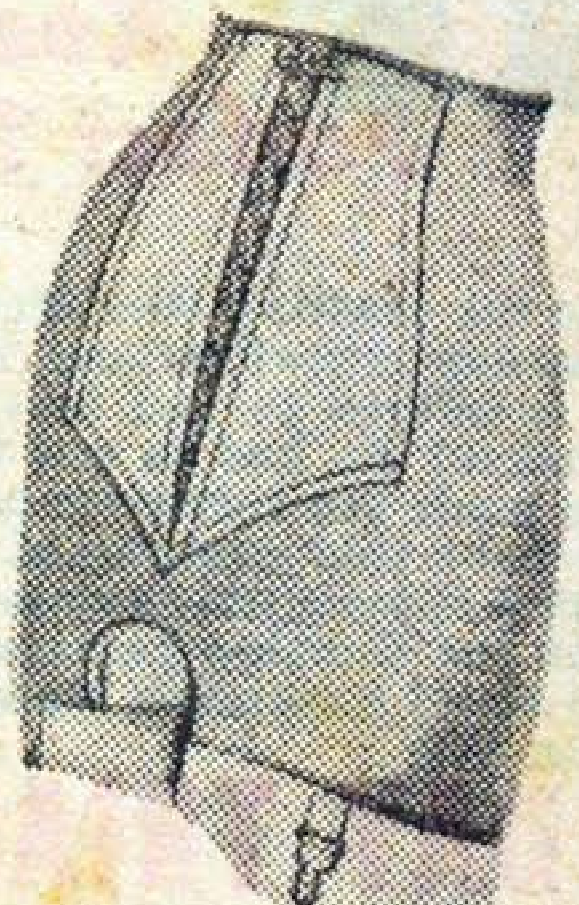
Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable, new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT with the amazing new *adjustable* front panel controls your figure the way *you* want it, with added support where *you need it most*. Simply adjust the laces and *PRESTO your mid section is reshaped*, your back is *braced* and you look and feel *younger!*

MORE UP-LIFT AND HOLD-IN POWER!

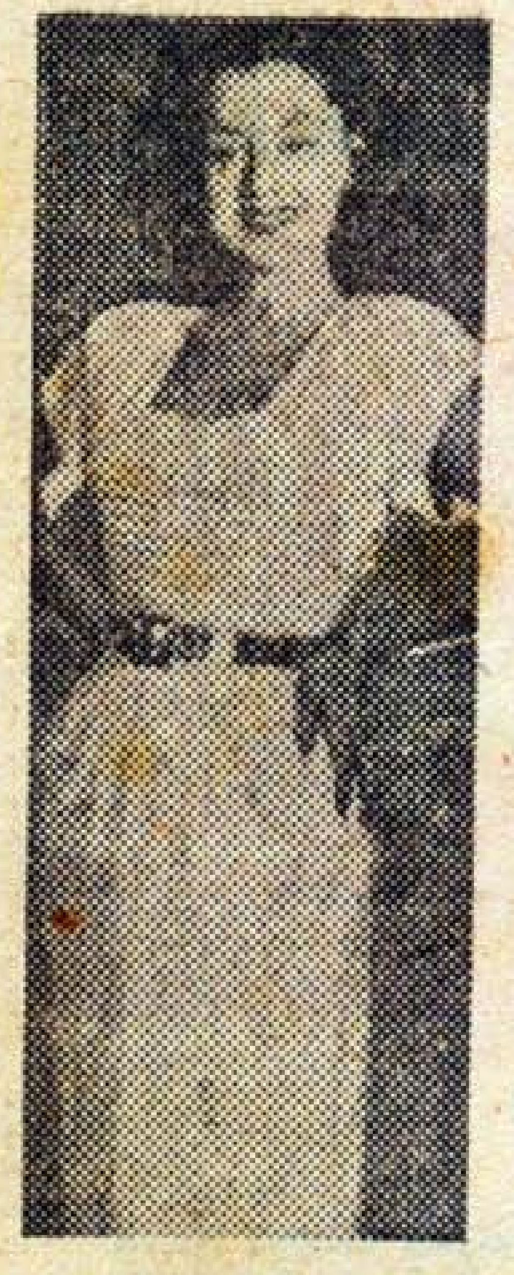
The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring, more daringly feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the *right places*, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whittles your waist line to *nothingness* no matter what shape you may now have. *It's easily adjusted—always comfortable!*

TEST THE **ADJUST-O-BELT** UP-LIFT PRINCIPLE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!

Clasp your hands over your *abdomen*, press upwards and in gently, *but firmly*. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT does for you only the ADJUST-O-BELT does it better. *Mail Coupon and test it at home for 10 days FREE at our expense!*



APPEAR SLIMMER, AND FEEL BETTER!



The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It *readjusts* easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant *slenderizing figure control*. It fashionably shapes your figure to it's slimmest lines. *Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT* obeys your every wish. *Pounds and inches* seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order girdle costing 2 to 3 times the price. It washes like a dream. Style: Panty and regular. Colors nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight but powerfully strong.

It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. *No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer.* Sizes 24 to 44 waist.

ONLY..................... .$3.98

You will look like and feel like this beautiful model in your new and improved Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt.

Money - Back Guarantee With A 10-Day FREE TRIAL

If the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT isn't better than any supporter you ever had, if You don't feel more comfortable, if you don't look and feel younger, if your shape isn't 100% IMPROVED, if you are not delighted with it, return it and your money will be refunded in full.

FREE: New amazing NYLON laces will be sent free with your order. Try them instead of your regular laces. You may keep them FREE even if you return the girdle.

SEND NO MONEY

ADJUST-O-BELT CO., Dept. 124
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Rush your new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT for $3.98 in size and style checked. ☐ Regular, ☐ Panty.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postage plus handling.
☐ I enclose $3.98. You pay postage plus handling.
CHECK SIZE: ☐ Sm. (25-26); ☐ Med. (27-28); ☐ Lg. (29-30); ☐ XL (31-32); ☐ XXL (34-36); ☐ XXXL (38-40); ☐XXXXL (42-44).

NAME____________________

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I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

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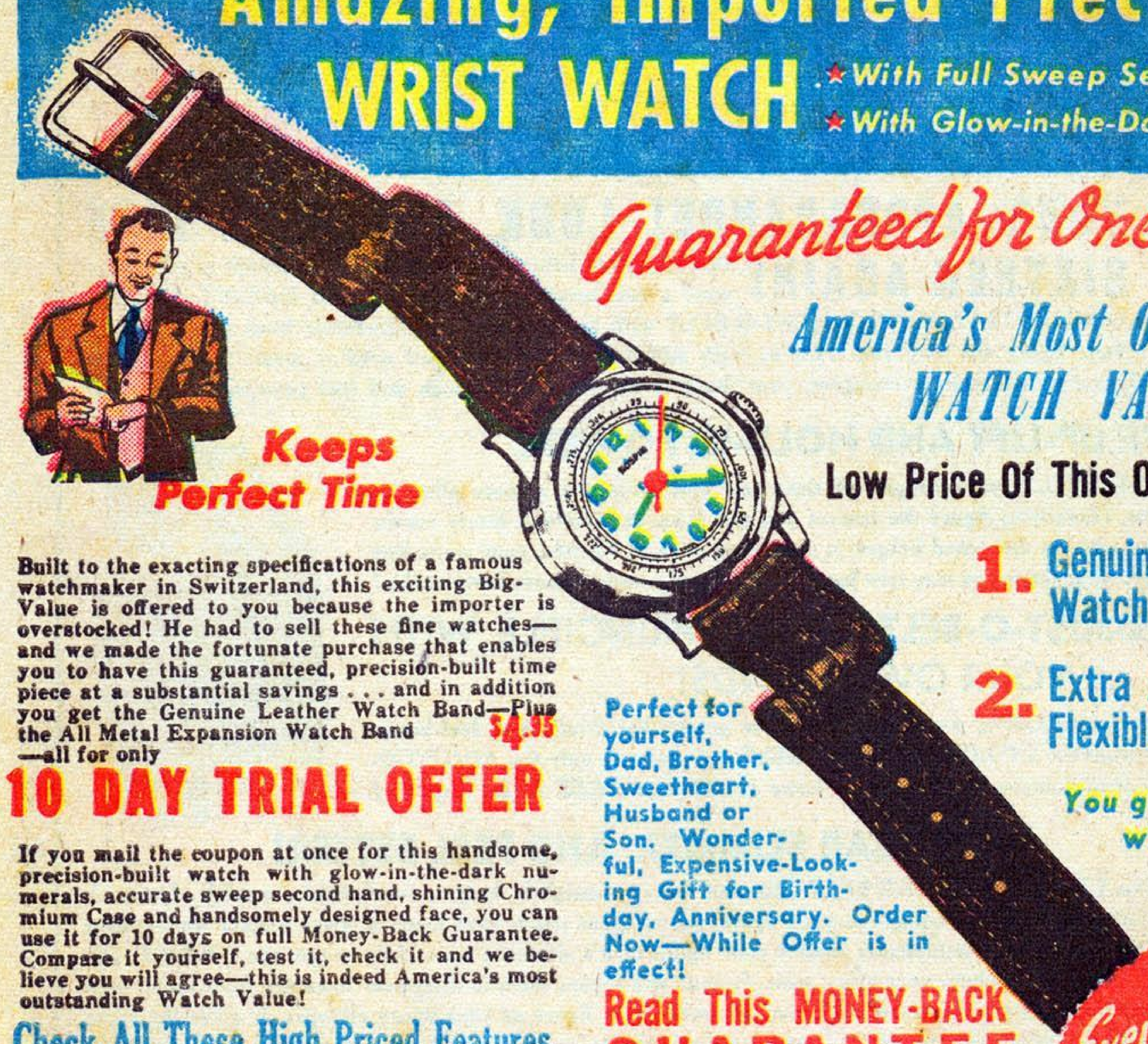
- ★ With Full Sweep Second Hand
- ★ With Glow-in-the-Dark Numbers



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Keeps Perfect Time

Built to the exacting specifications of a famous watchmaker in Switzerland, this exciting Big-Value is offered to you because the importer is overstocked! He had to sell these fine watches—and we made the fortunate purchase that enables you to have this guaranteed, precision-built time piece at a substantial savings . . . and in addition you get the Genuine Leather Watch Band—Plus the All Metal Expansion Watch Band —all for only $4.95

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If you mail the coupon at once for this handsome, precision-built watch with glow-in-the-dark numerals, accurate sweep second hand, shining Chromium Case and handsomely designed face, you can use it for 10 days on full Money-Back Guarantee. Compare it yourself, test it, check it and we believe you will agree—this is indeed America's most outstanding Watch Value!

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- Full Sweep, accurate Second Hand
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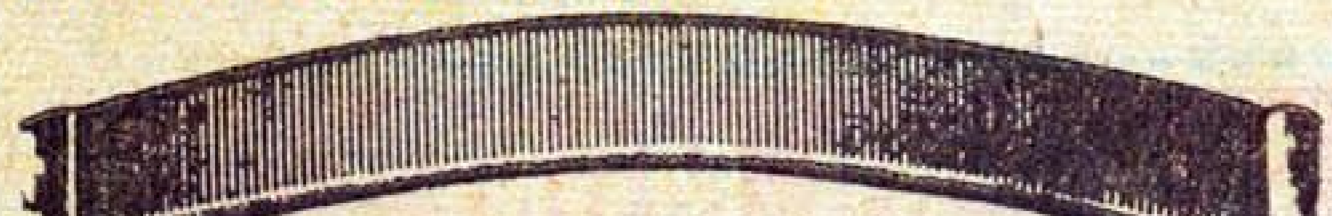
- You get both Genuine Leather Band and All-Metal Flexible Watch Bands
- Complete Satisfaction or your Money-Back in Full. No Risk

Performs and looks like Watches selling for 3 and 4 times this LOW PRICE



EXPANDING WATCH BAND

This Is The EXTRA ➤ Watch Band You Get at NO EXTRA COST By Mailing This Coupon

This Shiny, tarnish-proof Spring Steel F-L-E-X-I-B L E Watch Band is yours at no Extra Cost (you get the Genuine Leather Band, too) if you Mail the coupon at once! Wonderfully comfortable for wearing during warm weather—switch to Genuine Leather Band during colder months. Mail coupon for this amazing, smashing value offer—while supply lasts!

Low Price Of This Offer Includes:

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You get them BOTH with this Watch for this ONE LOW PRICE

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☐ Include All-Metal Flexible Band at No Extra Cost
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☐ To save C.O.D. charges, enclosed is $4.95, plus 10% Federal tax. Total $5.45. Send Prepaid on Money-Back Guarantee.
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I'll prove I can make YOU
an "ALL-AROUND"
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FAST—or it won't cost you a cent—
says George F. Jowett—World's Greatest Body Builder

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FOR ONLY
10c
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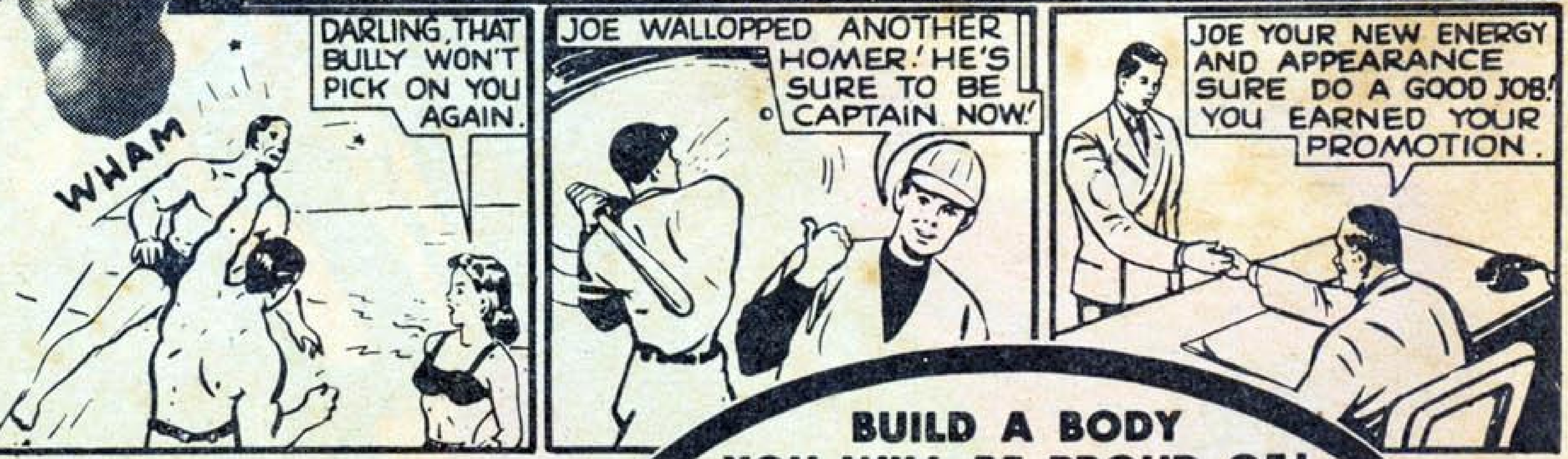
for all 5 courses

HOW YOU CAN BE A *WINNER* AT ANYTHING YOU TACKLE WITH *PROGRESSIVE POWER*


DARLING, THAT BULLY WON'T PICK ON YOU AGAIN.
WHAM
JOE WALLOPPED ANOTHER HOMER! HE'S SURE TO BE CAPTAIN NOW!
JOE YOUR NEW ENERGY AND APPEARANCE SURE DO A GOOD JOB! YOU EARNED YOUR PROMOTION.

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I'll teach you the "Progressive Power Method" through which I rebuilt myself from a physical wreck the doctors condemned to die at 15, to the holder of more strength records than any other living athlete or teacher! "Progressive Power" has proven its ability to build the strongest, handsomest men in the world. And I stand ready to show you on a money back basis — that no matter how flabby or puny you are I can do the same for you right in your own home. Let me prove I can add inches to your arms, broaden your shoulders, give you a man-sized chest, powerful legs and a Rock-like back — in fact, power pack your whole body so quickly it will amaze you! Yes, I'll jam you with power and self-confidence to master any situation—to win popularity—and to get ahead on the job! Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be.

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whom experts call the "Champion of Champions"
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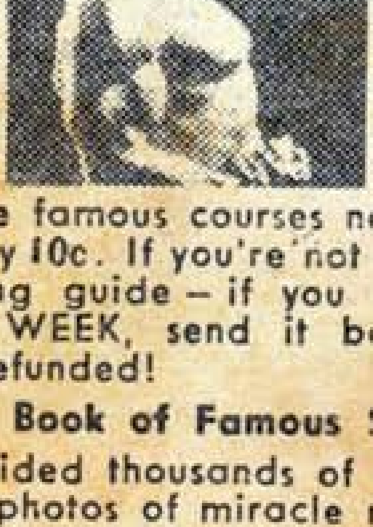

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10 DAY TRIAL!

Think of it—all five of these famous courses now in one picture-packed volume for only 10c. If you're not delighted with this famous muscle-building guide — if you don't actually FEEL results within ONE WEEK, send it back and your money will be promptly refunded!

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These are the very same 3-power all-metal Binoculars that we formerly sold for $9.95. In fact thousands were sold at that price. Yet now on this sensational "close-out offer," you can get a pair of these powerful Binoculars complete with beautiful carrying case as shown for the amazing low price of only $3.98. Think of it—that's a saving of $6.00. How can you lose with such a bargain. But you will miss out entirely unless you hurry . . . for every sportsman, hunter and motorist will want to own a pair at this close-out price. It will be first come, first served while the supply lasts. So rush your order today on the coupon below.

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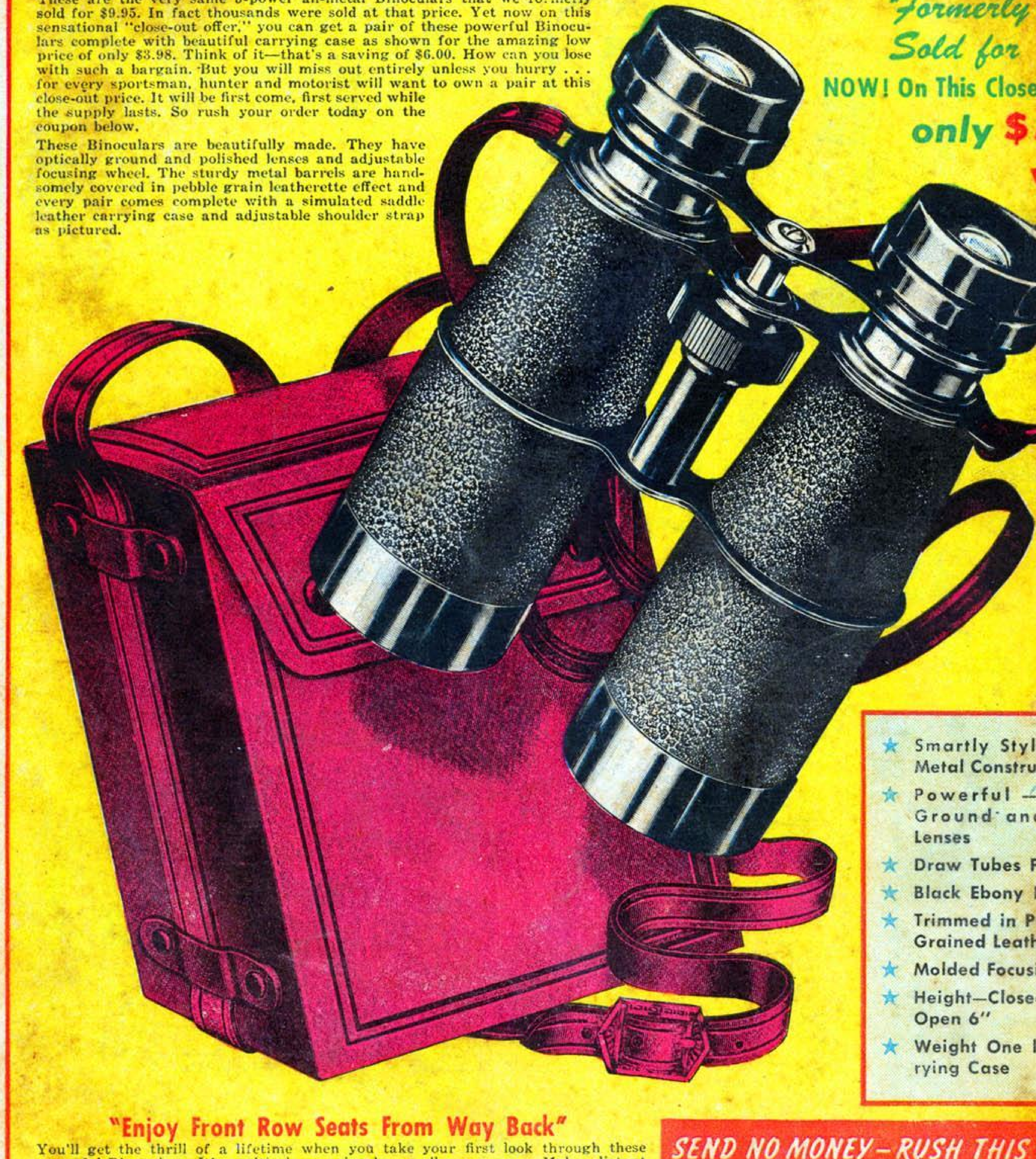
Formerly Sold for **$9.95**

NOW! On This Close-Out Offer!

only $3.98



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- ★ Powerful — Optically Ground and Polished Lenses
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- ★ Trimmed in Pebble Grained Leatherette Effect
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You'll get the thrill of a lifetime when you take your first look through these powerful Binoculars. It's positively amazing how well you can see. Makes distant objects appear close—brings them up to you—clear and sharp! You'll want to take these Binoculars with you on hunting trips, to sporting events, to the ocean and seaside. You'll be able to see people and wild life from a distance and watch what they're doing when they can't see you. Enjoy front row seats from way back!

USE FOR 10 DAYS ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

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